BLM LIBRARY
88045752

Wilderness Management Plan for the Cottonwood Point Wilderness

Arizona

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

September 1991

QH
76.5
.A6
V477
1991b
c.2

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

ID88045752 QH 76.5 .A6 V477 1991b c.2

Wilderness Management Plan

and

Environmental Assessment

for the

Cottonwood Point Wilderness

Arizona

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona Strip District - Arizona
Vermillion Resource Area

Mohave County, Arizona

EA #AZ-010-90-029
DR #AZ-010-91-042

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arizona Strip District Office
390 North 3050 East
St. George, Utah 84770

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8500

September 30, 1991

Dear Reader:

Designation of the Cottonwood Point Wilderness resulted in an opportunity to preserve an area with outstanding wilderness qualities. Although a small area compared to most designated wildernesses, it is still a wild and remote area seen by few people. This area retains the essence of what is truly wilderness. The area's lovely canyons and steep cliffs provide solitude and surprising beauty. Predominantly high desert in nature, this area will require continuing management scrutiny because of its sensitive ecology.

This plan is designed to guide our efforts to protect and preserve this unique area for ourselves and our posterity. It provides a system for protecting and restoring resource and social conditions needed to comply with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984.

Our thanks to the many people who helped us prepare this plan by providing suggestions and insights to special management needs in the area. We hope you will continue to work with us as we put the plan into effect.

Sincerely yours,

Area Manager, Vermillion Resource Area

District Manager, Arizona Strip District

State Director, Arizona

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I INTRODUCTION 2
PURPOSE OF MANAGEMENT PLAN 2
ORGANIZATION OF PLAN 2
WILDERNESS AREA OVERVIEW 2

II WILDERNESS GOALS 5

III MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 6

IV OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT 7
ADMINISTRATION 7
RECREATION 9
SEARCH & RESCUE 11
COMMERCIAL USE 12
WATER 13
WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT 14
CULTURAL RESOURCES 16
GRAZING MANAGEMENT 17
LANDS MANAGEMENT 18
MINERALS MANAGEMENT 19
FIRE MANAGEMENT 19
INSECTS, DISEASE, AND NOXIOUS PLANTS 20

V ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT 27
INTRODUCTION 27
PURPOSE AND NEED 27
PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES 27
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT 37
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES 37
PROPOSED ACTION 37
ALTERNATIVE A 39
NO ACTION 40
CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION 41
RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL SHEET 42

VI COST ESTIMATES 43

VII APPENDICES 44
APPENDIX A: WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION 44
APPENDIX B: LIVESTOCK AND RANGE DATA 46
APPENDIX C: RANGE MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT USE & IMPROVEMENTS 47
APPENDIX D: FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 51
APPENDIX E: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS 55
APPENDIX F: PLAN PARTICIPANTS 59
APPENDIX G: GLOSSARY 60

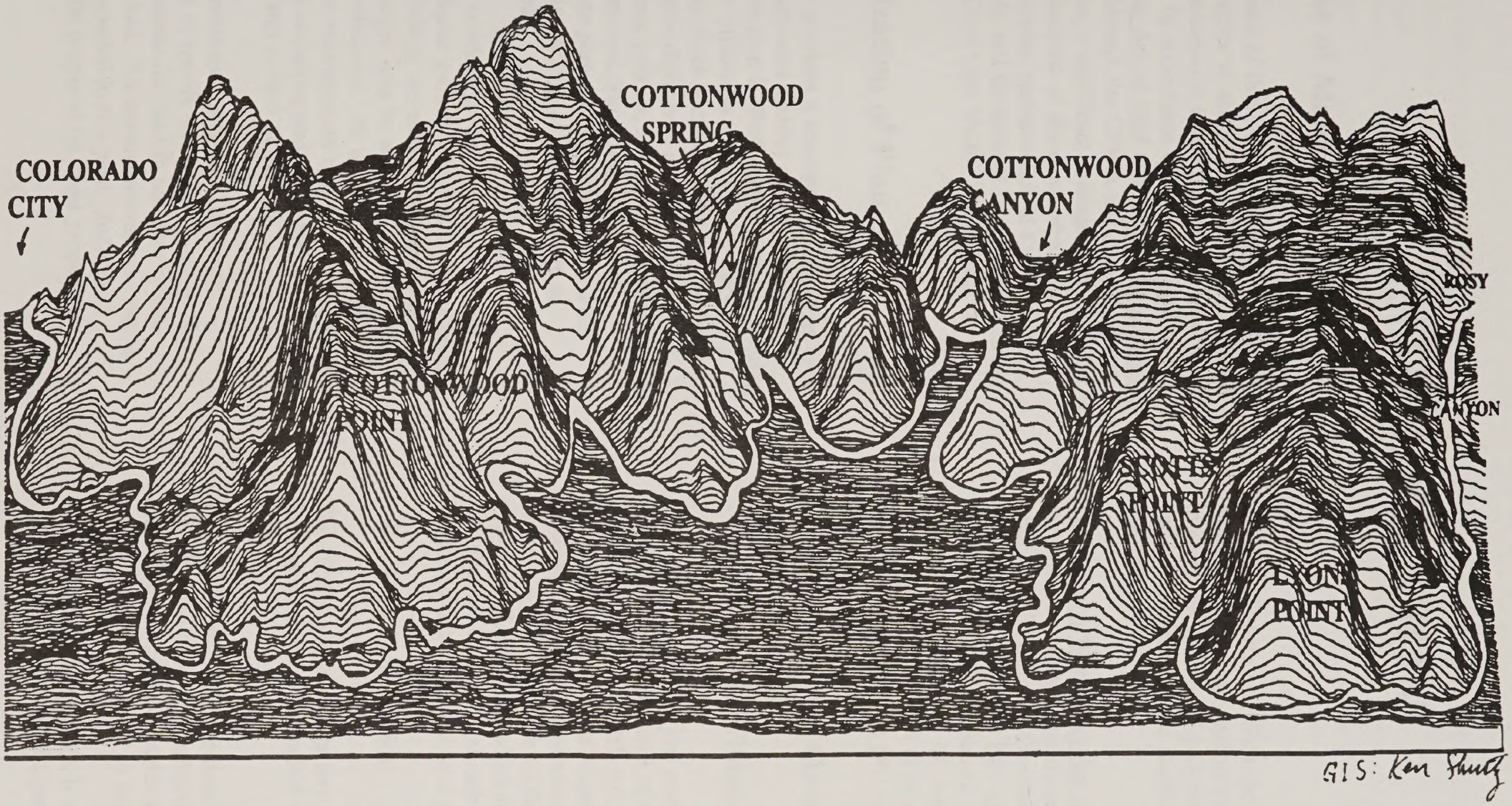


Figure 1:Perspective View of Cottonwood Point Wilderness

I INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Management Plan

The purpose of this plan is to establish objectives and management actions to guide administration of the Cottonwood Point Wilderness Area (CPWA) in accordance with the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Although the CPWA encompasses only 6,500 acres, a significant management challenge is involved because of the close proximity to the rapidly growing communities of Colorado City, Cane Beds, and Centennial Park in Arizona and Hildale, Utah (See Visitor Map, inside back cover).

Organization of Plan

This plan provides a strategy, specific objectives, and management actions aimed at wilderness goals. The plan is divided into sections covering the major wilderness management categories (elements). Each section includes subsections on management objectives, current situation, assumptions, policies, and management actions to be implemented. Supplementary tables, subordinate plans and a glossary have been attached to the end of the document as appendices.

The plan provides general management direction for the 10-year period 1992-2002. It is designed to be a working document and temporary or minor changes may be made as needed with public involvement. At the end of the 10-year period, the management objectives and statements of current situations and assumptions will be reviewed and revised as needed.

An implementation sequence has been developed to specify when and by whom the specific actions outlined in the plan will be accomplished. An environmental assessment (EA) is included in this plan. Individual EAs will be prepared for most proposed site-specific actions. With the State Director's approval of this plan, authority to carry out associated policies and actions will be delegated to the District Manager unless otherwise specified.

The Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984, Section 303, requires a map and legal description for each wilderness filed by the Secretary of the Interior with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House Representatives as soon as practicable. This work will be accomplished as part of this plan.

Wilderness Area Overview

A. Location of Wilderness

The CPWA is located just south of the Utah-Arizona state line and east of the community of Colorado City. The Utah-Arizona state line is the northern boundary. The majority of the wilderness consists of prominent high ridges formed by the Vermilion Cliffs, Cottonwood Point and Scotts/Lyon Point which jut noticeably above the adjacent rolling, sagebrush-clad country located to the south and west (See Figure 1).

B. Area Description

The CPWA contains a variety of scenic, geological, cultural, biological and recreational values.

The Vermilion Cliffs and their associated canyons are the main topographic features. The cliffs form the entire southern perimeter of the wilderness area with a vertical relief in excess of 1000 feet.

The majority of the CPWA is rough and uneven terrain and provides good topographic screening for visitors.

Cottonwood Canyon and its side canyons provide excellent areas for solitude.

The CPWA lies on the western perimeter of the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province. The variety of colors and textures in the rock formations within the wilderness constantly change with variations in light and weather. Dominating the entire area is the Vermilion Cliffs escarpment formed from the Navajo Sandstone Formation with its steep boulder-strewn slopes, various colors and massive cliffline.

The CPWA is in a desert region of long hot summers, mild winters, low annual rainfall, low relative humidity and a high percentage of sunny days. Temperatures reach into the high 90s Fahrenheit during the summer and go below zero degrees during the winter. Rainfall is about 15 to 20 inches annually. Winter precipitation occurs as gentle rain or light snowfall. Clear skies and a dry atmosphere cause surface heating during the day and rapid radiational cooling at night. Thunderstorms form almost daily during July and August above the mesas from hot westerly desert winds being forced aloft. Intense thunderstorms from July to September typically send flash floods through the canyons.

Since the CPWA is relatively isolated from major sources of pollution, air quality ranges from very good to excellent (Class II air quality rating- Clean Air Act 1977, BLM Manual 8560.36B1). Visibility is also very good, but occasional wind-blown dust can reduce visibility for short time periods.

Most of the area consists of pinyon/juniper vegetation type and associated species such as Indian ricegrass, galleta, sand drop seed, sagebrush, Mormon tea, rabbit brush, prickly pear and other cacti. Riparian vegetation exists in Cottonwood Spring Canyon and in other side canyons as well. The higher elevations contain some ponderosa pine. No known listed or candidate threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are in the wilderness.

The CPWA is inhabited by diverse wildlife. Over 100 different species of birds are believed to occur in this wilderness ranging from year-round resident species to occasional visitor species. At least twenty species of raptors probably occur in the wilderness. Appendix A provides a list of riparian plants and birds of prey which have been documented or have a high probability of occurrence in the wilderness. The peregrine falcon is the only endangered animal species believed to be found in the area. A variety of reptiles and amphibians also occur in the wilderness, especially in and around the limited riparian areas. Mule deer, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, and other mammals can be found in the general area.

The CPWA has a long and rich history of both Native American and Euroamerican use and habitation. Prehistoric and historic trails pass nearby. Remnants of Anasazi dwellings, ancient rock art, as well as old ranch sites and livestock management structures, are scattered throughout the area.

The area provides excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking, sight-seeing, bouldering (rock climbing) and hunting. Clifftop panoramic vistas are excellent. The CPWA provides scenic panoramas of the outlying canyon country, including the Kaibab, Kanab, and Uinkaret plateaus, and the Canaan, Moccasin, and Moquith mountains. Opportunities for visitors to experience solitude vary from good to outstanding, depending on the area of use. Excellent opportunities exist for a variety of primitive and unconfined types of recreation. Backpacking and hiking use is currently low in the wilderness, but opportunities for these uses are excellent. Sight-seeing and photography can enhance those uses to make recreation use in this wilderness setting a high-quality experience. The prominent, colorful ridges provide a stunning backdrop for travelers along Arizona State Road 389.

Major access to the wilderness area is by way of Arizona State Road 389, the east-west route through the region. The highway passes within a half-mile of the CPWA.

Access to the north end of the wilderness is by non-motorized means through the Canaan Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Access to the western side of Cottonwood Point is via the Colorado City area, most of which is privately owned. Cottonwood Canyon, which splits the

wilderness roughly in half, has access via two dirt roads off the Cane Beds county access road. Both roads cross private land, and the eastern road is posted for "no trespass." The eastern side of Lyons Point is accessible via the Cane Beds/Rosy Canyon Road.

C. General Management Situation

The CPWA provides a variety of opportunities for wilderness users. Most of the area remains in a pristine or near-pristine condition controlled by natural processes. Noticeable human influences are few. Visitation to the wilderness area is quite low. Some areas near the springs, outside the wilderness, but located very close to the boundary receive substantial impacts from recreational use.

Located immediately north of CPWA in Utah is the Canaan Mountain WSA administered by the Bureau's Cedar City District. Due to a variety of common features and the way the two areas tie together geographically, both the Cedar City and Arizona Strip Districts believe that they should be combined and managed as one unit if the Canaan Mountain WSA is officially designated as wilderness.

If the Canaan Mountain WSA is designated a wilderness, a decision would be made by Congress at that time on combining the two areas. If the two areas are combined, administration would be a cooperative effort between the Cedar City District and the Arizona Strip District and a new plan would be developed for management of both areas as a single unit.

II WILDERNESS GOALS

The management objectives and actions developed in Chapter IV of this plan are designed to help BLM attain the following four wilderness management goals.

The first and dominant goal is to provide for the long term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character under a principle of nondegradation. The area's natural condition, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation, and any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value present will be managed so that they will remain unimpaired.

The second goal is to manage the wilderness area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave the area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. The wilderness resource will be dominant in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of wilderness character and visitor use.

The third goal is to manage the area using the minimum tool, equipment, or structure necessary to successfully, safely, and economically accomplish the objective. The chosen tool, equipment, or structure should be the one that least degrades wilderness values temporarily or permanently. Management will seek to preserve spontaneity of use and as much freedom from regulation as possible.

The fourth goal is to manage nonconforming but accepted uses permitted by the Wilderness Act and subsequent laws in a manner that will prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the area's wilderness character. Nonconforming uses are the exception rather than the rule; therefore, emphasis is placed on maintaining wilderness character.

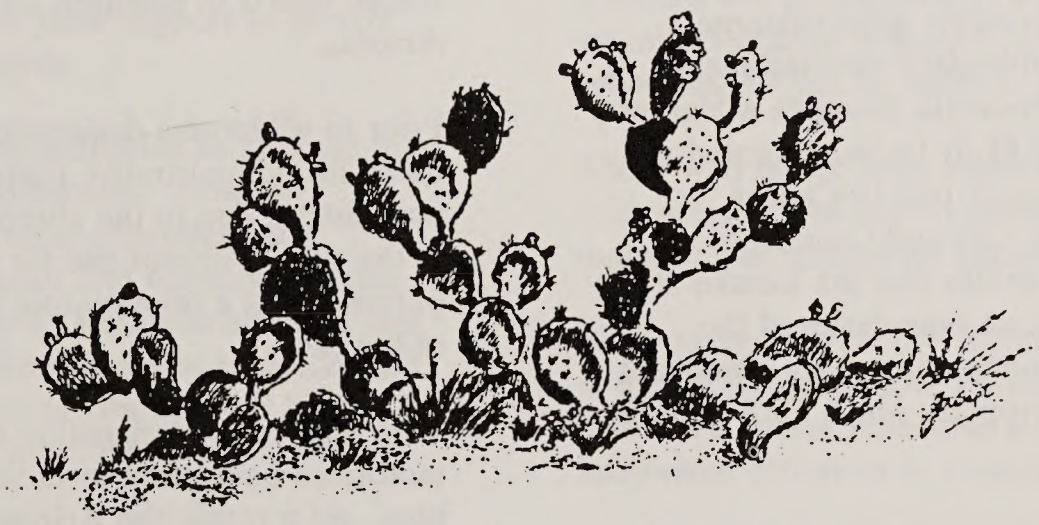
III MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

To move toward the stated goals and carry out the Bureau's wilderness regulations and policies, the wilderness management plan provides objectives for maintaining or enhancing wilderness values, as well as policies and actions that BLM will implement to achieve the objectives. The objectives, arranged in the plan by various wilderness characteristics, describe wilderness conditions that managers want to achieve or maintain to assure progress toward established goals.

Objectives were developed utilizing existing inventories, current knowledge of resources and the conditions existing at the time of wilderness designation. As the need arises, special problems may be identified and management direction adjusted to meet changing circumstances.

The potential for increased use creates special management concerns for the quality of visitor experience, visitor safety, and the impacts of visitor use on sensitive resources. Management activities and monitoring in this area will be directed toward maintaining high-quality wilderness recreation opportunities, but not at the expense of other sensitive resources.

Actions proposed in the wilderness will undergo an environmental assessment to determine the action's conformance with plan objectives and goals. All approved actions will be monitored to insure conformance with the plan's objectives. No action will be approved that will degrade wilderness values. Management direction and monitoring will be aimed at preservation; limitations will be placed on visitor use if necessary. Existing developments that affect the natural setting will be removed if they do not meet criteria for retention described in Appendix C.



IV OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS FOR WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

ADMINISTRATION

A. Management Objectives

Carry out administrative activities in the wilderness using means and methods that will preserve and/or enhance the wilderness setting, emphasizing the use of the minimum tool necessary for accomplishing tasks.

Manage non-conforming but acceptable uses to the extent necessary to preserve wilderness values without undue encumbrance to those uses.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

The CPWA is within the Vermillion Resource Area of the Arizona Strip BLM District. Administrative responsibilities for carrying out the actions within this plan are delegated to the Arizona Strip District Manager and Vermillion Resource Area Manager.

The CPWA borders the Canaan Mountain WSA on the Arizona-Utah state line. The WSA's southern boundary provides good wilderness protection from unauthorized encroachments. If and when Canaan Mountain becomes wilderness, the CPWA will most likely be incorporated and managed as a contiguous unit to Canaan Mountain. Colorado City and Cane Beds are both growing communities that are located at the southwest and southeast boundaries of the wilderness. These communities have significant amounts of private property which border on the CPWA.

The CPWA is administered under the authority and provision of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Wilderness Act of 1964, and the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. Procedures for the management of the public lands designated as the CPWA are found in Management of Designated Wilderness Areas (43 CFR Part 8560). Guidance for management of wilderness is found in the BLM Manual Section 8560.

Maps of the CPWA boundary have been developed and some on-the-ground boundary markers are in place. Geomorphically the wilderness boundary lies generally at the contact of the talus or hillslope and the lower pediment footslopes. At this contact, slopes change significantly from about 30 percent on the hillslopes to about 6 percent on the pediments. In several areas, sand dunes mask this contact. In these situations the boundary follows line of contact between the top of the dunes and the hillslope or cliffline.

The BLM Arizona Strip District Ranger has authority to enforce of 43 CFR Part 8560.1-2, Prohibited Acts, or any other laws or regulations pertinent to public lands. Law enforcement may also be handled by any appropriate state, county, or federal agency possessing federal law enforcement authority. Several local agencies participate in the Arizona-Utah Advisory Council which generally meets every three months to coordinate law enforcement and search and rescue efforts in southern Utah and northern Arizona.

Prior to wilderness designation, motorized ground travel for administrative purposes was virtually nonexistent, due to the absence of roads or ways in the area. Aircraft use for administrative purposes was a primary tool for access into much of the area.

With wilderness designation came restrictions on motorized equipment including administrative uses. As a result, the Arizona Strip District instituted a request procedure for the use of motorized equipment. The procedure requires the analysis of other alternative methods and the careful application of the minimum tool policy

before any request can be approved by the authorized officer.

2. Assumptions

Funding and personnel will be provided sufficient to meet the objectives of this plan.

Unauthorized uses in wilderness along the wilderness boundary may occur inadvertently or intentionally unless the boundary is well marked in the field.

BLM will make a significant effort to make sure local residents understand policies and management regulations related to use of the wilderness and the location of the wilderness boundary.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

All wilderness administrative activities will be carried out in a manner to minimize any adverse effects on the wilderness environment and/or the opportunity for users to experience solitude or engage in primitive recreation activities. All proposed projects will conform to the goals and objectives established by this plan.

The Arizona Strip District will work to foster a close working relationship with all individuals and government entities that use or influence use of the wilderness to enlist their support to protect and enhance the resource.

Scientific study was not identified as an issue in management of the wilderness. However, research that is wilderness-dependent and compatible with the goals and objectives of this plan will be encouraged. Research activities that will adversely affect the wilderness resource limit the experience of users or conflict with other wilderness objectives will not be approved.

All requests for BLM administrative use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment in the wilderness will be closely scrutinized. The minimum tool policy will govern authorizations.

Approval may be given by the authorized officer for the use of motorized and mechanical equipment for search and rescue, fire suppression and law enforcement emergencies. However, in such cases the incident must obviously require and demonstrate an urgency and need for speed beyond that available by primitive means.

Nonconforming uses (covered by special provision in Section 4 (d) of the Wilderness Act) will be administered for the minimum amount of impact on wilderness values. However, such administration shall not negate the intent of Congress as expressed in the Wilderness Act of 1964 concerning these uses.

Structures or installations having historical significance as defined by the criteria for evaluation for nomination to the National Register (36 CFR 60.4) may be retained and preserved as historic features. If such structures or installations do not have historical significance, they may be maintained for continued use if they meet the "minimum tool" policy and their use is specifically permitted by the Wilderness Act. Any structure or installation that qualifies as a cultural property but does not qualify for protection under the above criteria will be removed after completing the Sec. 106 review process required by the National Historic Preservation Act. The 106 process only applies to cultural properties.

Portions of the wilderness that may exist in an unacceptable condition due to past human activities will be restored to a natural condition where restoration is feasible and where natural processes will not be likely to succeed.

Those who use or have expressed an interest in wilderness will be kept informed of wilderness management actions via letters or newsreleases.

BLM administrative overflights will be conducted at least 2,000 feet above ground level over the wilderness unless otherwise authorized by the authorized officer or in a emergency situation.

Through coordination with the authorized officer, aircraft use below 2,000 feet that involves management of wilderness or programs and uses within wilderness will be carefully regulated and planned, timed and conducted in a manner which

ensures that wilderness values are maintained:

- Aircraft use will be kept to a minimum and as site-specific as possible.

- Aircraft flights will be scheduled at times and locations which minimize the impact on visitors' wilderness experiences.

- Aircraft landing requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

2. Management Actions

Conduct an on-the-ground survey (establish monumentation) of the wilderness boundary to identify its location for administrative and public awareness purposes. Clearly mark the boundary in the Colorado City and Cane Beds areas.

Submit any new proposals for use or development that are not addressed in this plan to the Arizona State Director for review and approval.

Continue to coordinate with city, county, state, and federal agencies whose activities affect or are affected by Bureau management of the CPWA.

Set up and carry out routine ranger patrols to coordinate other compliance activities and ensure nonmotorized uses and nondegradation within the wilderness boundary.

Inventory wilderness for areas which exist in an unacceptable condition.

Develop rehabilitation project plans for areas documented as unacceptable.

Monitor the effects of authorized uses of motorized or mechanized vehicles or equipment and make recommendations that reduce environmental impacts.

RECREATION

A. Management Objectives

Provide and maintain wilderness settings where opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are outstanding and compatible with the preservation of wilderness values. Appropriate settings feature a natural wilderness environment, low probability of encountering other visitors, opportunities for visitors to experience physical and mental challenge, and inspiration.

Maintain opportunities for hunting and trapping in a manner that is compatible with the preservation of wilderness values, and consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

Deer hunting and trapping of fur-bearing animals are activities that have taken place for many years in the vicinity of the wilderness. Hikers and campers, though few in number, visit the area for its outstanding opportunities for solitude and scenery. Many more people enjoy the area because of the scenic vistas as they drive along Highway 389 or travel through Rosy Canyon toward Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. Very little recreational horse or pack stock use has been documented.

No developed recreational trailheads or hiking trails exist in the wilderness area. One developed stock trail on the west side of Scotts Point provides good access to the top of the Lyons Point but access to the trail is encumbered by posted private land with locked gates.

Current visitor use in the wilderness is believed to be very low; perhaps less than 100 visitor use days/year. Most of this use is thought to originate from the adjacent Colorado City and Cane Beds areas.

The enclosed visitor map depicting the wilderness and the Canaan Mountain WSA boundaries was developed in 1985 and has been available upon request from the district and area offices. Formal informational and educational materials that interpret the area's cultural, geologic, and natural values have not yet been developed. Information concerning these values is available at the BLM office, but typically exists as reports, photos, field maps, or personal experience of specialists.

At present, few signs are in place related to the wilderness. There are BLM standard boundary markers at several access points. These markers are informational, designed to alert the public to the wilderness boundary and limitations on motorized use.

Some use of off-highway-vehicles occurs in and around the CPWA in washes and on dune areas. This use has grown over the last five years along with weekend picnicking. The sand dunes are small but provide fun and excitement for users of these vehicles. The impacts created by this type of use are noise in the immediate vicinity, loss of vegetation, littering, and possibly open gates and cut fences.

2. Assumptions

If current recreational trends continue on the Arizona Strip as a whole, visitors may shift from those who are of predominantly local origin to those from more regional and national origins.

Increases in visitor numbers or visitor impacts may result in an increased need for law enforcement or restrictions.

Managing the area as wilderness with associated legislative constraints may create some public misunderstanding and non-compliance.

Increases in visitor use to the region may result in more informational requests to the Arizona Strip District and Area Offices.

Potential for some unauthorized motor vehicle activity to adversely affect the wilderness will continue.

The current level of signing is inadequate to inform, direct, or educate the visiting public or other resource users.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Any regulations or restrictions imposed on visitors will be based on Bureau monitoring of wilderness conditions.

Management of visitor use will be the minimum necessary to preserve wilderness character. Indirect techniques to increase user awareness will be instituted before direct methods will be used.

The Scotts Point stock trail will be identified on the wilderness map as a public access route after BLM initiates negotiations and acquires a public easement to the trails head. New trails will not be constructed unless needed to control the spread of user-created trails.

Horse/pack animal use will be allowed in the wilderness to accommodate hunting and other recreational use.

BLM will provide basic information about the wilderness to recreationists upon request.

Visitors will be encouraged to use "no trace camping" practices.

Visitors will be encouraged to use campstoves for cooking. Campfires will not be restricted in the wilderness unless their impacts to the resource setting becomes a problem.

BLM will manage the wilderness setting in such a way that challenge, risk, and the sense of discovery remain high.

2. Management Actions

Monitor various indicators of visitor use impacts, both resource and social. Determine annually the degree of such impacts and their trend. With accumulated data, set acceptable standards for the various indicators.

Initiate a system to regulate recreational use if monitoring of indicators demonstrates a need to limit user numbers. If visitor regulation is necessary, prepare a study of regulatory alternatives, including fees, and analyze each in an environmental assessment involving public participation.

Prepare an interpretative brochure and map covering the following themes:

a. Backcountry safety considerations.

b. Wilderness camping and hiking ethics.

c. Sanitary waste disposal.

d. Historical, cultural, geological and wildlife features.

e. Access points.

f. Impacts of vandalism on cultural resources.

g. Use of horse and packstock.

h. Map of the wilderness.

i. Location of the stock trail.

SEARCH & RESCUE

A. Management Objective

Coordinate with local, county state and other federal search and rescue groups to ensure the development of effective search and rescue procedures to enhance public safety.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

BLM recognizes its obligation to the public in cases where immediate action is necessary to provide aid to visitors who are lost, seriously ill, or injured. Within CPWA, there are no cases of record where a search and rescue effort has been needed. This area poses a moderate hazard to visitors with its abrupt cliffs and steep slopes.

The rugged and narrow promontories could make search and rescue operations difficult.

The Mohave County Sheriffs' office has the primary responsibility for search and rescue operations. BLM's role has traditionally been one of cooperating with and actively supporting sheriff-directed search and rescue efforts, primarily in other areas of the district. The National Park Service (NPS) carries out search and rescue operations in Zion National Park several miles to the north in Utah. The town of Colorado City has organized and trained a search and rescue unit composed of volunteers.

Currently no cooperative agreement exists among BLM, NPS, Colorado City, and the Mohave County Sheriff for search and rescue roles specific to wilderness. Consequently, county personnel are not fully aware of BLM policies for search and rescue operations in wilderness. Additionally, no formal search and rescue plan is in effect to address operational procedures or to identify potential aerial hazards and helispots for use during search and rescue operations.

While several BLM personnel are qualified emergency medical technicians and all personnel are trained in first-aid practices, only one employee in the district (the District Ranger) is formally trained in search and rescue techniques and strategies.

2. Assumptions

The Mohave County Sheriff will continue to have primary responsibility for search and rescue operations within the wilderness.

The number of search and rescue operations associated with the CPWA is expected to be low due to low visitor use in this area.

Any increases in visitation could also increase the need for search and rescue preparedness and capability.

Effective emergency service that maintains the wilderness setting will require close coordination among the various agencies and local governments and a common understanding of each entities' roles and responsibilities.

BLM personnel may need to initiate search and rescue operations when emergencies arise and BLM is the first agency contacted. When possible, the Arizona Strip District Ranger will usually respond for BLM.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Search and rescue responsibilities and procedures will be clarified and coordinated with Mohave County authorities, the National Park Service (Zion National Park), and Colorado City officials to provide timely and appropriate response where life-threatening situations arise or visitor safety is needed.

All permanent and seasonal BLM personnel who work in the Cottonwood Point area will become familiar with any procedures prescribed in the search and rescue plan.

Helispots necessary for search and rescue operations are not pre-constructed but are located and cleared when they are needed. Natural clearings conducive to safe helicopter landing are to be identified as part of a plan or a cooperative agreement.

2. Management Actions

Develop formal agreements with Mohave County Sheriff's office, Zion National Park, and the Colorado City Chief of Police. The agreements will incorporate any constraints associated with wilderness management and identify BLM support personnel who are knowledgeable about the wilderness and its management.

The Arizona Strip District Ranger will attend regular meetings of the Arizona-Utah Advisory Council to ensure coordination of law enforcement and search and rescue efforts in the wilderness.

Immediately following any search and rescue operation, rehabilitate significant surface disturbances resulting from such operations.

Identify helispots and any aerial hazards, using in-house field knowledge and existing aerial photography. Identify natural openings or locations where vegetation patterns would accommodate the landing of a helicopter during a search and rescue operation.

COMMERCIAL USE

A. Management Objective

As appropriate, authorize commercial services that allow outfitters and guides to meet public needs when such services are consistent with the protection of the wilderness resource.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

No commercial use has been documented in the CPWA in the past 10 years.

2. Assumptions

There will be very few commercial use permit applications submitted for the wilderness over the next 10 years.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policy

Commercial services, including those requiring horses and/or pack animals, may be authorized by permit for activities that are appropriate to realize

the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the area.

When commercial use permits are granted, the permit stipulations will specify the authorized type of use, group size, and other measures to mitigate impacts and protect wilderness values.

2. Management Actions

Inform outfitters and guides who are interested in the Cottonwood Point Wilderness about permit requirements and restrictions (CFR-8370).

Monitor any commercial use of horse/pack animals. Establish limits on use of pack animals if monitoring studies indicate site deterioration is occurring.

WATER

A. Management Objectives

Allow water to play its natural role by maintaining natural processes as free from human intervention or contamination as possible.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

Four known springs are in or on the boundary of the wilderness (Cottonwood, Maidenhair, Stateline and Finnicum). Private individuals have established water rights for most of the flow from all of these springs.

Stateline and Maidenhair springs were developed for livestock use long before the wilderness designation and most of the water is piped to locations outside the CPWA. Moreover, the spring sources were fenced to protect them and the associated riparian values. Through an agreement with the individuals who have the water rights, some of the flow is maintained onsite and down the drainage to maintain riparian values. Finnicum spring has been developed but the water remains close to its source.

Spring water available for recreation use is limited as three of the above springs have been developed for livestock use. Most of the water is piped to storage tanks or livestock watering troughs, or released for riparian habitat. Cottonwood spring is the only known undeveloped spring in the area. The chemical quality and quantity of flow for the springs is unknown at this time. Fresh water springs and seeps bubbling from the Navajo sandstone canyon walls generally provide potable water with low total dissolved solids (TDS). None of the springs have been tested to see if they meet drinking water standards.

2. Assumptions

No policies or actions within this plan will affect valid existing water rights.

Wilderness designation will constrain the construction, upgrading, or relocation of developments intended to collect and/or transport water within, across, or out of wilderness.

The demand for water will increase as the recreational use of the area increases and as growth occurs in the Cane Beds area.

Water in the wilderness cannot be guaranteed safe for human consumption in an untreated form without proper testing.

C. Management Directions

1. Management Policies

Water rights and waters currently used for wildlife, domestic and stock watering purposes will be maintained. Additional development needs for water will be considered on a case-by-case basis according to wilderness management objectives and policies of this plan.

BLM may, where state law permits, file for water rights on selected water sources in order to protect wilderness resources, threatened and endangered species habitat, wildlife and recreational uses.

2. Management Actions

Protect wildlife and recreational uses of water by filing for State-Certificated water rights as needed.

Periodically sample Stateline, Maidenhair and Cottonwood springs for macroinvertibrates and water quality.

Include water treatment precautions in any visitor information materials that are developed.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

A. Management Objective

Manage the wilderness for abundant and diversified wildlife in balance with its habitat. Natural processes are the primary shapers of habitat and interactions among species.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

The Clayhole Habitat Management Plan (HMP) approved in 1979 includes the area designated in 1984 as the CPWA. The main objectives of the HMP are to manage for wildlife values and riparian habitat. The HMP will be reviewed and revised after completion of the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (RMP) and this plan to update the wildlife objectives and incorporate RMP and WMP planning decisions and wilderness considerations.

Small riparian areas occur as a result of water flow from Maidenhair and Stateline springs. The Cottonwood spring area is one of the best riparian zones on the Arizona Strip. The riparian communities associated with Cottonwood and Finnicum spring are in excellent ecological condition, while the riparian conditions below Maidenhair and Stateline springs are less than satisfactory and require close monitoring.

Cottonwood, Stateline and Maidenhair springs are routinely sampled for macroinvertebrates. This information is used as baseline data and could be used as an indicator of water quality and ecological change.

Desert bighorn sheep once lived in the area but none are known to be present at this time and no plans exist to reestablish them.

Relatively few deer live in the wilderness. The best habitat is along the rim of the Vermilion Cliffs, while the sagebrush flats below the wilderness and near the springs support a few deer year round. The existing HMP has no objectives for improving or expanding deer habitat in the wilderness. Hunting activity for deer within the wilderness area has been light but is increasing.

At least 20 species of birds of prey are likely to be found within the wilderness as permanent or part-time residents (see Appendix A, Table 3A). Peregrine falcon, an endangered species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), nests in cliff areas on the Arizona Strip and in Zion National Park, and though undocumented, may nest along the Vermilion Cliffs. BLM and the Arizona Game & Fish Department are currently conducting a five-year study of the peregrine falcon in the region.

Very little has been documented on invertebrate, amphibian, reptile and small mammal occurrence and distribution within the wilderness. The opportunity exists to increase the general knowledge of the specific range of some species and the variability in the gene pool of others through studies.

2. Assumptions

Based on current management practices, riparian habitat conditions will generally remain static with some improvement in condition over time.

Diversity and abundance of wildlife populations will depend primarily on natural processes and conditions. Limited management may be necessary with some species to promote viability and stability in the population.

Predator control may be requested to prevent serious losses to livestock, threatened or endangered wildlife. Although predator problems

and populations fluctuate, animal damage control does not appear to be an issue during the life of this plan.

Helicopter flights and occasional landings may be needed for certain wildlife habitat or species management activities.

Deer populations within the wilderness are expected to remain static or increase slightly due to habitat management actions outside the wilderness area such as water developments or vegetative manipulations.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Wildlife management will be directed towards ensuring diversified and abundant native wildlife and habitat by preserving natural processes.

Riparian areas will be managed to maintain or improve their natural condition.

To further wilderness management objectives, emphasis will be placed on accomplishing habitat management functions through non-motorized, non-mechanized means.

If a native wildlife species is eliminated in the wilderness by human influence, reintroduction of that species will be considered.

Any plans for reintroducing bighorn sheep would be handled in the HMP and be compatible with the goals and objectives of this plan.

No wildlife species populations will be encouraged to the disadvantage of another, with the exception of threatened and endangered species.

Predators will coexist with other wildlife species in the wilderness essentially free from the interference of humans. Where control of predators is necessary to protect threatened or endangered wildlife species or domestic livestock, it will be accomplished by methods which are directed at eliminating the offending individuals while at the same time presenting the least possible hazard to other animals or to wilderness visitors. Poison baits or cyanide guns will not be permitted. Predator control is authorized by written permission only.

2. Management Actions

Review and amend, if necessary, those portions of the Clayhole HMP pertaining specifically to objectives and actions within the wilderness. Make revisions consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan.

Continue the periodic macro-invertebrate and riparian habitat (including vegetation, water quality and quantity) sampling on Cottonwood, Maidenhair and Stateline springs.

Coordinate and work with grazing permittees to assure the maintenance of the fences around Stateline and Maidenhair riparian areas.

Continue to support the peregrine falcon five-year study with the Arizona Game & Fish Department. Include gathering data on other raptors observed in the area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Management Objectives

Preserve and protect cultural resources in compliance with federal and state laws and BLM policy.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

Archaic, Anasazi and Paiute cultural properties are known to occur in the Colorado City-Cane Beds area. Some systematic inventory of the wilderness area has been done. Campsites, rock art, and rock shelter sites have been recorded in the Cottonwood Point Wilderness. Use categories have not yet been assigned to these properties. Several excavations have occurred in the Colorado City area, just outside of the wilderness.

Some areas of the wilderness are quite susceptible to archaeological site vandalism. This is especially true along the lower slopes of both the promontories of the wilderness. The recreational use of the area and easy access may contribute to the problem.

No cultural properties within the wilderness are presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2. Assumptions

Significant historic and prehistoric properties that have not yet been inventoried may lie within the wilderness.

Any upward trend in visitor use of the wilderness increases the potential for adverse impacts to cultural properties.

Unauthorized use of cultural resources (vandalism) will continue in and around the wilderness.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Upon completion of a Vermillion Resource Area Cultural Resource Management plan all known sites will be assigned to a use category.

Pursuit of legitimate scientific or educational studies of cultural resources will be allowed in accordance with federal law and established BLM policy and procedure. Requests for access to cultural site data will be processed through the Vermillion area office.

Surface-disturbing cultural resource management activities will be discouraged if data can be obtained in other areas or by other means.

The State Historic Preservation Officer will be consulted on evaluation of archaeological and historic sites that may meet eligibility criteria to the National Register of Historic Places.

2. Management Actions

Routinely monitor the wilderness for impacts to known cultural properties. Record any sites discovered during the monitoring process and evaluate for significance according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility.

Develop a wilderness brochure that contains information pertaining to the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 and interpretive information to promote understanding and appreciation of non-renewable cultural resources. Identify public use sites in the brochure.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT

A. Management Objectives

Manage grazing to maintain or improve ecological condition and provide for necessary maintenance of range improvements without compromising wilderness values.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

Presently six grazing allotments are partly or wholly within the CPWA (see Appendix C). Approximately 249 AUMs of active use occurs within the wilderness. All allotments are on custodial grazing management systems.

The range improvements known to exist in the Cottonwood Point Wilderness Area are as follows:

No. of Spring Developments	3
Miles of Pipeline	0.05
Troughs	2
Miles of Livestock Fence	2.75
Livestock Trails	1 (0.5 Mi)
No. of Wells/Windmills	1/1

None of these improvements has required motorized or mechanized equipment for routine maintenance.

Almost all areas in the wilderness that are grazed have a static to upward trend and improving ecological conditions. Deterioration of both riparian and desert shrub communities has occurred from heavy use by livestock. Establishment of grazing systems has helped to improve the vegetation conditions in these areas. Current management is maintaining or improving conditions in the wilderness.

2. Assumptions

Under the current grazing systems, ecological conditions will continue to improve.

Utilization levels and patterns of use will remain generally as they were prior to wilderness designation.

Range trend will remain static or move upward under present management practices.

Motorized vehicles and mechanized equipment may be needed for some maintenance operations.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Existing livestock grazing will continue at present levels pursuant to Section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act and House Reports 96-1126 and 98-643.

Adjustments in grazing preferences may be proposed based on standard BLM range monitoring studies, allotment evaluations and wilderness resource impacts.

Whenever possible, new range improvements will be located outside the wilderness area.

All newly proposed range improvements and amendments or modifications to existing improvements will be evaluated in the allotment management plan and an environmental assessment. The construction of new improvements will be considered for resource protection and management only.

Maintenance proposals associated with nonconforming but accepted uses will be analyzed and processed in accordance with Appendix C of this plan.

2. Management Actions

Continue monitoring studies, including utilization, trend, actual use, livestock counts and precipitation data gathering, as specified in the allotment management plans.

Especially close monitoring of riparian areas will be maintained.

Review and amend allotment management plans to incorporate maintenance plans and to assure consistency with the objectives of this plan.

In cooperation with the permittee, consider removing all improvements which have been abandoned or are non-functional and not needed to support the established grazing program.

LANDS MANAGEMENT

A. Management Objectives

Manage valid existing rights associated with past lands actions in order to accommodate existing uses without compromising the wilderness character of the area. Acquire private inholdings when available through exchange or purchase.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

Portions of six parcels of private land are within the exterior boundary of the wilderness. These inholdings amount to approximately 240 acres. BLM has contacted the owners of these inholdings to negotiate for possible land exchanges. BLM has worked with Colorado City to acquire a 40-acre inholding on the western edge of the wilderness.

There are no pre-designation rights-of-way within the CPWA.

A Recreation and Public Purposes lease was recently issued by BLM to Mohave County for the purpose of building a community college. The campus site is located approximately 1/4 mile from the boundary of the wilderness.

Access to Cottonwood Canyon is across private lands by way of two dirt roads. One of these roads is posted "No Trespassing"; the other has a gate but has not been posted.

The growing communities of Colorado City and Cane Beds continue to require new rights-of-way, land exchanges, and other use authorizations related to development.

A Recreation and Public Purposes lease for a landfill site is contiguous to the wilderness. The site is commonly seen burning and the smoke and loose debris move with the wind into the wilderness. The landfill lease was issued to Colorado City in the S1/2 SW1/4 SE1/4, Sec 5, T41N R6W.

2. Assumptions

Growth and development on private land surrounding the wilderness will likely continue.

Acquisition of private inholdings is advisable.

BLM will pursue relocation of the landfill site to mitigate the visual and air quality problems.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Any attempts to acquire private inholdings will involve negotiation and voluntary cooperation of landowners.

Any acquired state and private inholdings will be managed as wilderness, under the provisions of the Wilderness Act and the objectives of this plan.

No rights-of-way will be issued over, upon, under or through designated wilderness, as per Section 501(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

2. Management Actions

Work with Mohave County Community College as requested on offering courses on wilderness, wilderness management, recreation, environmental sciences and no trace camping techniques.

Continue to work with Mohave County and Colorado City in an effort to relocate the landfill.

Survey the wilderness boundary and sign and monument it to ensure that community growth does not encroach on the wilderness.

Inform Colorado City residents about the location of the boundary and wilderness policies that relate directly to their activities.

Complete the land exchange with Colorado City for the 40-acre inholding.

Continue negotiations for acquisition of all in-holdings.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT

A. Management Objectives

Ensure the protection and/or enhancement of wilderness character while allowing valid existing mineral rights to be exercised in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and subsequent legislation.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

The Cottonwood Point Wilderness contains one oil and gas lease issued by the State of Arizona on lands acquired by the BLM through state exchange. The lease, AZ 022813, will expire in 1992, provided no production occurs before that time. No mining claims are recorded in this wilderness.

On August 28, 1984, the Cottonwood Point Wilderness was closed to all forms of appropriation under the United States mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing. No known mineral material pits exist within the wilderness and none are planned.

2. Assumptions

No locatable mineral exploration or development activities will take place within the wilderness.

Any oil and gas exploration activity that might take place on lease AZ 022813 will most likely be on the nonwilderness portion of the lease due to steep topography on the portions of the lease within wilderness.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

When lease AZ 022813 expires, it will not be renewed. Until that time, management of the lease will be in accordance with 43 CFR 8560.4-7b.

Permits shall not be issued for removal of mineral materials as defined in Public Law 167 the Act of 7/23/1955; 69 Stat. 367.

2. Management Actions

Process any valid application for a permit to drill on lease AZ 022813 in accordance with 43 CFR 3100 and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

A. Management Objectives

Allow fire to play its natural role in the wilderness ecosystem.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

The area consists of narrow promontories, the Vermilion Cliffs escarpment, numerous sandstone buttes and rolling sandhills. Vegetation varies from sparse stands of grass intermixed with brush to wide-spaced pinyon and juniper trees and riparian growth in some wash bottoms.

The fire history of this wilderness is one of low occurrence. Vegetation is sparse and scattered, leading to a non-continuous distribution of fuel. The potential for significant resource damage caused by natural fire is extremely low.

The wilderness is within an area previously designated for limited suppression or observation. Historically, suppression action has been limited to only aerial or ground observation.

2. Assumptions

Fire occurrence will be infrequent and the number of acres burned will remain small.

Increased human use of the area will not significantly affect fire occurrence due to lack of fuel.

C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Wildfires will be allowed to burn if fuel and weather conditions fall within predetermined prescription criteria.

Human-caused fires may be treated the same as lightning caused fires.

If suppression is needed, techniques will be used that result in the least possible impact to the wilderness resource. Surface disturbances from suppression actions will be rehabilitated to the fullest extent possible.

A wilderness resource advisor will be assigned to all fires when suppression action has been determined necessary.

Aircraft overflights will be the principal tool for following the progress of any wilderness fire. The 2000-foot flying altitude advisory will be followed whenever practical.

2. Management Actions

Write a fire management plan for the Cottonwood Point Wilderness (see Appendix D).

INSECTS, DISEASE, AND NOXIOUS PLANTS

A. Management Objectives

Allow insect infestations, disease and noxious plants to play their natural role in the ecosystem except when they pose a threat to a valuable wilderness resource or a threat to property or resources outside the wilderness.

B. Current Situation and Assumptions

1. Current Situation

Insects and disease occur naturally in most forest types in endemic proportions. In the CPWA these could include dwarf mistletoe in the juniper and ponderosa pine, mountain pine beetle in the ponderosa, and pine needle scale in pinyon pine. These forest pests contribute in a positive way by creating occasional snags for raptors and cavity-nesters.

No noxious weeds or plants have been identified in this wilderness as needing control. Russian olive, salt cedar, and scotch thistle occur in the vicinity of the springs and are exotic (non-native) species.

2. Assumptions

Control of harmful insects, diseases or noxious weeds will not be necessary.

Due to the low numbers of ponderosa pine, control of insects or disease in this vegetative type is not anticipated.

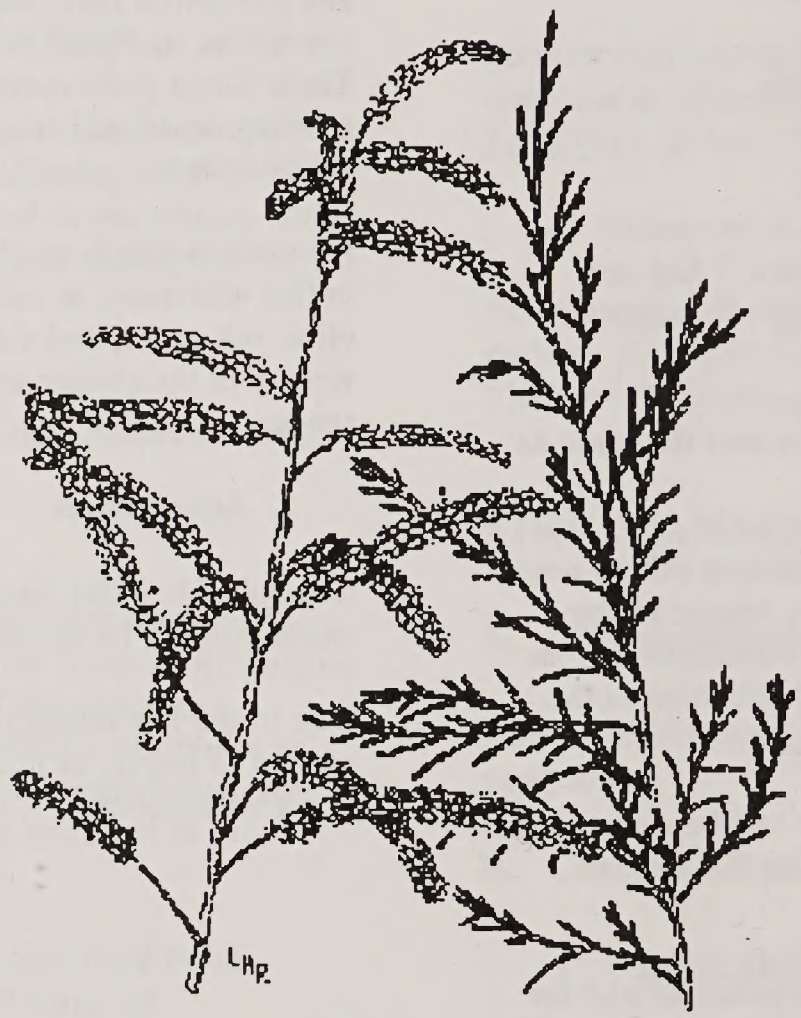
C. Management Direction

1. Management Policies

Control of noxious plants, insects or disease will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the wilderness policies and plan objectives.

2. Management Actions

Inventory and monitor springs and seeps for salt cedar invasion.



IMPLEMENTATION SEQUENCE

Management Action	Target Date	Responsibility
Administration		
Prepare a monitoring program to include the following: Recreation use, Vegetation, Wildlife, Grazing use, OHV use, Riparian, and Cultural values.	1993	Area and District Recreation Planners in cooperation with other resource specialists.
Monitor OHV problem areas and prevent use in wilderness.	Continuously	Area and District Planners, District Rangers
Inform wilderness users of location of official boundary and about constraints on motorized equipment.	Continuously	All BLM personnel
Establish BLM administrative flight policy. (2000 feet above ground level)	1992	District Manager
Maintain District objectives and procedures involving requests for motorized equipment.	Continuously	District Manager
Inventory existing structures and installations; evaluate for purpose and need.	1993	Area Recreation Planner
Survey wilderness boundary.	1994	ASO Cadastral Engineers/District Engineers
Inventory for areas that exist in unacceptable/unnatural condition.	1993	Area Recreation Planner
Develop Rehabilitation Plan for unacceptable areas.	1994	Area Recreation Planner
Recreation		
Monitor visitor use, horse/pack animal use.	Annually	Area Recreation Planner, Range Specialists
Impose temporary camping restrictions.	Implement as needed	Area Recreation Planner
Monitor visitor use impacts to riparian communities.	Continuously	Area Recreation Planner, Wildlife Biologists

IMPLEMENTATION SEQUENCE

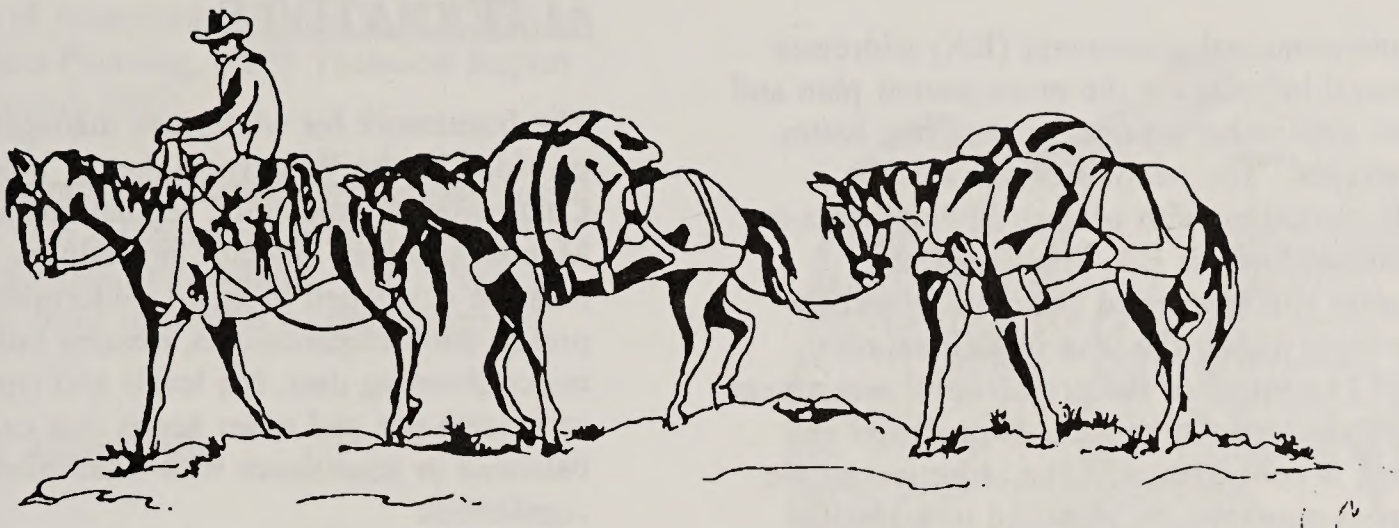
Management Action	Target Date	Responsibility
Information and Education		
Develop visitor brochure, with a map and informational material (Encourage use of "No Trace" camping).	1992	District and Area Recreation Planners and other resource specialists
Search And Rescue		
Encourage BLM personnel to attend the Arizona-Utah Advisory Council.	Annually	District Ranger
Coordinate a Cooperative Agreement for Search and Rescue with local Search and Rescue units.	1992	District Ranger
Commercial Use		
Inform outfitters and guides about permit requirements and restrictions.	As needed	Area and District Recreation Planners.
Monitor commercial use activities.	As needed	Area Recreation Planner
Signs		
Place boundary, interpretive and regulatory signs at access points as future use patterns demonstrate a need.	Continuously	Area Recreation Planner/Operations Division
Water		
File for water rights.	As needed	District Watershed Specialist
Monitor quality and quantity of wilderness water sources and riparian habitat.	Annually	Area and District Watershed Specialists and Biologists

IMPLEMENTATION SEQUENCE

Management Action	Target Date	Responsibility
Wildlife Management		
Revise the Clayhole Habitat Management Plan to incorporate the goals and objectives of this Wilderness Management Plan.	1993	Area Manager, Area Biologist
Inventory unique habitats to determine the occurrence of state or federal listed species.	1994	Area Biologist
Coordinate aircraft use by Arizona Game & Fish over this wilderness for BLM.	As needed	Area Manager
Monitor riparian habitat.	Continuously	Area and District Biologists
Cultural Resources		
Evaluate sites/historic structures for significance and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.	As needed	Area Archeologist
Inventory access points and areas that are identified in use monitoring.	As needed	Area Archeologist
Grazing Management		
Hold annual coordination meetings with affected grazing permittees to review and update the project maintenance schedule and plan.	Annually	Area Manager
Review and amend Allotment Management Plans to incorporate the maintenance plans and be consistent with the objectives of this plan.	1993	Area Manager
Inventory existing structures and installations.	1993	Area Recreation Planner with assistance from other resource specialists
Continue monitoring studies as specified in Allotment Management Plans.	Annually	Area Range Conservationists

IMPLEMENTATION SEQUENCE

Management Action	Target Date	Responsibility
Lands		
Deny applications for new rights-of-way in this wilderness.	As necessary	State Director, District Manager
Continue negotiations with owners of inholdings on exchange proposals.	As needed	Area Manager
Determine valid existing rights associated with rights-of-way.	1993	State Director
Obtain travel easements through private lands in Cottonwood Canyon.	1993	Area Realty Specialist
Minerals		
Inform the public of the wilderness areas closure to mineral entry for location, leasing or sales.	Continuously	Area and District Minerals Specialists, and Recreation Planners
Monitor mineral activities in or near the wilderness.	Continuously	Area and District Minerals Specialists, and Recreation Planners
Fire		
See Fire Management Plan (Appendix D).	1992	Area Recreation Planner and District Fire Management Officer
Insects And Disease		
Inventory springs and seeps for tamarisk invasion.	Annually	Area and District, Recreation Planners and Biologists
Prepare control plans.	As needed	Area Manager



V ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

This environmental assessment (EA) addresses the general impacts for the management plan and presents alternative actions for resolving issues and concerns. The analysis of site specific impacts associated with project developments are not addressed in this EA. This level of assessment will be carried out on a project-by-project basis during the plan implementation period. The intent of the project-level assessment is to determine if the project, as proposed and designed, is consistent with the objectives of the wilderness management plan and to assess the nature and magnitude of any environmental impacts.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Cottonwood Point area was designated wilderness with the passage of the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984. To guide management of the area, a wilderness management plan has been prepared which sets forth the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed management goals, objectives, direction and actions. BLM has developed the proposed action and alternatives in this EA to provide a range of practical management choices for carrying out Congressional intent as specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 and subsequent regulations and policies.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The framework for wilderness management is provided by the Wilderness Act of 1964, Congressional guidelines, regulations and BLM Manual sections. Specific procedures must be developed to guide wilderness preservation requirements, existing but nonconforming uses, the levels and types of recreation use and other needs that can be balanced in accordance with established laws and regulations.

The Comparison of Alternatives Table highlights three alternatives. A complete description of the Proposed Action Alternative is presented in Chapter IV of the Wilderness Management Plan (WMP). The plan covers both BLM's administrative actions as well as BLM's strategy for administering other proposed actions.

Three alternative management proposals were considered.

Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative favors wilderness preservation, with special emphasis on protecting naturalness, scenic quality, solitude and primitive unconfined recreation while recognizing and providing for nonconforming but acceptable uses. The Proposed Action Alternative consists of the Management Policies and Management Actions that were presented in Chapter IV of the Wilderness Management Plan. This is the proposed action and reflects policy and public input.

Alternative A

Alternative A is to manage for wilderness preservation exceeding the Proposed Action prescriptions. Under this alternative, wilderness resource protection would always take precedence over other values, such as recreational use and nonconforming but acceptable uses. A Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) plan would be developed for all resources in the wilderness area (See Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) System for Wilderness Planning, USFS Technical Report INT-176, January 1985).

Interpretation of the wilderness regulations would be followed with management actions always favoring wilderness preservation. This alternative would be the most restrictive on the wilderness users.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would comply with the 1964 and 1984 Wilderness laws. Management under this alternative would maintain the wilderness character at or slightly better than the condition the wilderness was in at the time of designation.

Management actions would generally be reactive, responding to issues and concerns as they arise. Each action or proposed use would be evaluated, using the Wilderness Act and Bureau policies and regulations as guidance.

The actions defined in this alternative would be the minimum required to correct an existing substandard resource situation or an unauthorized activity.

The following table compares each of the three alternatives to the management activity listed in the WMP beginning on Chapter IV. Alternative A and the No Action Alternative are compared to the Proposed Action when appropriate.

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Administration			
Use constraints	No fee permit system or group size limit	A fee permit system and group size limit of 10, one group per day	Same as Proposed Action
Motorized/ mechanized equipment use in non-emergency situations for Administration and other uses	The wilderness would be closed to motorized mechanized equipment with rare exceptions	Same as Proposed Action except the mesa tops would be closed to all non-emergency requests for motorized use	Motorized/mechanized equipment would be allowed where used previously and complies with minimum tool policy
Aircraft use	All non-emergency aircraft would fly above 2,000 feet where practical. Flights below 2,000 feet would require Authorized Officer approval. Landing of helicopters would be after a case-by-case analysis	All non-emergency administrative flights would be above 2,000 feet. No landings would be permitted	No aircraft elevation restrictions. Landing of helicopters only after a case-by-case analysis
Monitoring	Monitor wilderness management actions for compliance with management plan. Develop an LAC plan if use determines the need	An LAC plan would be developed immediately after approval of final management plan to allocate resources and use	Monitor wilderness management actions

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Woodland products	Monitor wood gathering activities along lower slopes of the two points. Initiate action to curtail activities when necessary	Same as Proposed Action	Allow wood gathering
Scientific studies	Proposals for scientific studies will be considered on a case-by-case basis	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Vehicle closures	Barricade and/or sign vehicle entry sites/areas	Same as Proposed Action	Sign but do not barricade areas from unauthorized entry
Structural inventory	Man-made structures will be inventoried and evaluated to determine suitability for retention in the wilderness	Same as Proposed Action	Ignore existing structures
Recreation			
Visitor use	Encourage "Leave No Trace" ethics. Monitor use, restrict use if monitoring detects negative resource impacts. Establish standards for impact analysis based on LAC Process	Same as Proposed Action	No restrictions
Trails	No trail construction except to correct resource damage	No trail construction. Close use area when resource damage occurs	Same as Proposed Action

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Campfires	Allow campfires, encourage use of backpacking campstoves	No campfires in the wilderness	No restrictions
Horse/Packstock use	No restrictions	Establish LAC limits on horse/packstock use	No restrictions
Brochure preparation	Prepare a brochure specific to the CPWA with a map and interpretive material on the wilderness, wilderness ethics, and "No Trace Camping"	No Brochure	Same as Alternative A
Signs	Place boundary, interpretive and regulatory signs at access points as use patterns demonstrate a need	Use extensive signing along boundary and access points to indicate wilderness boundary	Minimal signing to notify users of boundary
Search And Rescue			
Coordination with local agencies	The District will actively seek out responsible local SAR organizations to formalize agreements concerning wilderness management constraints for CPWA	Same as Proposed Action	Let SAR agencies handle SAR activities

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Commercial Use			
Commercial use	Allow commercial use of area. Horses/packstock allowed. If use of wilderness increases develop an LAC plan to protect the Wilderness	No horses/pack-stock allowed	No restrictions
Water			
Water	BLM would periodically monitor water sources for contamination and take appropriate actions	BLM would intensively monitor and take appropriate action	BLM would not monitor any water sources
Water filings	BLM would file for unappropriated water where it exists and state law permits	Same as Proposed Action	No water filings will be made
Wildlife Habitat Riparian Vegetation			
Wildlife habitat management	Selected riparian areas would be monitored and action taken when necessary to prevent deterioration	All riparian areas would be monitored and action taken when necessary to prevent deterioration	No monitoring

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Aircraft use	Aircraft use would be kept to a minimum, landing requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis	Aircraft would be required to fly a minimum of 2,000 feet above ground; no landings permitted	Same as Proposed Action
Habitat management plans	Habitat management plans would be amended to reflect wilderness considerations where they affect CPWA wilderness values	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Cultural Resources			
Monitoring	Routine monitoring for impacts to resource. Evaluate sites for significance according to the National Register of Historic Places Criteria for eligibility as necessary	Class II inventory of wilderness to determine resource extent. Nomination of all sites eligible for National Register of Historic Places	Minimal monitoring necessary to protect the resource; no Class II inventory
Scientific & Educational Studies	Proposals for scientific or educational studies would be considered on a case-by-case basis	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Grazing Management			
Monitoring studies	Studies would continue as specified in existing AMPs. Studies would be accomplished without vehicles	Same as Proposed Action	Continue existing studies. Allow vehicle use where feasible
AMP	Allotment management plans would be amended to reflect wilderness considerations where they impact wilderness values	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Inspection and maintenance	Follow congressional grazing guidelines for inspection and maintenance of range improvements as proposed in Appendix C of the management plan	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
New improvements	Would be considered based on potential impact to wilderness resource	No new improvements	Same as Proposed Action
Abandoned or unnecessary improvements	Would be removed by BLM in cooperation with permittee	Would be removed by BLM	No removal
Lands management			
Access	Negotiate for travel easements through private lands to provide public access to Cottonwood Canyon	Do not attempt to obtain easements	Same as Alternative A

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Landfill site	Coordinate with Mohave County and Colorado City to relocate	Same as Proposed Action	Leave the landfill site where it is
Private inholdings	Negotiate acquisition of inholdings through voluntary cooperation of landowners	Same as Proposed Action	Ignore inholdings
Rights-of-way	Deny applications for any proposed rights-of-way in the wilderness	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Minerals Management			
Leases	Lease AZ 022813 will expire in 1992 provided no production occurs before that time. Lessee must meet protective stipulations of lease	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Mining claims	Monitor activities adjacent to the wilderness for illegal mining entry	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action
Salables	Monitor clay, sand, gravel, stone harvesting activities for entry into wilderness	Same as Proposed Action	Same as Proposed Action

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Management Activity	Proposed Action	Alternative A	No Action
Fire Management			
Suppression	Unsuppressed fires would be monitored to ensure they did not exceed management prescriptions. Limit to observation unless human safety, or high value resources are endangered	Same as Proposed Action	No prescription required
Prescribed fires	No prescribed fires proposed for this plan	Consider prescribed fire for resource enhancement	Same as Proposed Action
Insects & Noxious Weeds			
Tamarisk control	Tamarisk control would be considered on an as needed basis using minimal tool concept	Same as Proposed Action	No control necessary
Insect Control	Insect infestations would be treated on a case-by-case basis	Natural processes would be allowed to occur with no controls on insects	Eradication of any infestation when it is causing significant resource damage

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Cottonwood Point Wilderness Area (CPWA) is a Congressionally designated 6500 acre wilderness located on the Arizona-Utah border.

A specific description of the affected environment is provided in Chapter I and IV of the Wilderness Management Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The analysis of impacts is based on the following assumptions.

(a) Each alternative is analyzed as if it were a fully funded action and would be implemented with all necessary personnel.

(b) Implementation of the management plan would begin in fiscal year 1992.

(c) The short-term period is less than 10 years; long-term is greater than 10 years.

(d) Site impacts from any proposed actions not specifically projected in the WMP would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis in an EA.

(e) Analysis of impacts is based on the Comparison of Alternatives Table above. This table does not specifically identify impacts and is used for comparison only. Therefore, many items are not discussed in the Environmental Consequences section.

(f) This EA section discusses both positive and negative impacts. Many actions addressed have minor impacts, but in the interest of clarity and documentation, they are discussed.

PROPOSED ACTION

Administration

The lack of regulation of group size could adversely affect the quality of the wilderness experience for many visitors, especially those seeking solitude. It would allow more people to hike and camp in the area. Not restricting domestic pets could have an adverse affect in the wilderness area on wildlife and recreationists, campsites and water holes. Not using a registration system has the potential for adverse impacts on human health and safety by not providing information on natural hazards. It would also reduce the information BLM could obtain on users and user attitudes.

Proposals for the use of motorized/mechanized equipment use would be evaluated using the minimum tool criteria. Only vehicle use or mechanical equipment determined to meet the minimum tool criteria would be authorized. This requirement would minimize adverse impacts to naturalness, solitude and unconfined recreation. There are relatively few instances anticipated for which BLM may require or approve motorized/mechanized equipment. Almost all motorized vehicle proposals would require a separate EA to evaluate the impacts on the wilderness resources and users.

Closing the wilderness for vehicle use and motorized equipment would have beneficial impacts on naturalness, wildlife, solitude and the fragile nature of desert vegetation.

The greater the use of motorized transportation the greater the adverse impacts on the wilderness values such as solitude, wildlife, visual resources and recreation. Mechanized use would adversely affect the solitude and wilderness experience for recreational visitors within hearing or seeing distance.

Opportunities for wilderness visitors to engage in primitive and unconfined types of recreation on the two mesa tops are not expected to be adversely affected by use of motorized vehicles or equipment due to their extreme topography and distance from vehicle routes.

Cultural, wilderness and wildlife values could benefit from motorized vehicle use for law enforcement purposes by providing quicker response to reported incidents, therefore reducing damage caused by vandals.

Surveying and establishing the area boundaries would have positive impacts because it would establish exactly where the boundary lies. Administratively this would help avoid conflicts adjacent to the wilderness.

Aircraft Use

Under this alternative all non-emergency administrative aircraft use would fly at least 2,000 feet above ground whenever practical. This creates potentials for both positive and negative impacts. Limiting flight patterns to above 2,000 feet could have a beneficial effect on the wilderness recreational user and wildlife reducing or eliminating noise and visual intrusions. All administrative flights below 2,000 feet would require prior authorized officer approval. If approved, a flight below 2,000 feet could have an adverse impact on wildlife, naturalness, solitude and unconfined recreation.

All helicopter landings would be analyzed and evaluated on a case by case basis.

Monitoring

Under this alternative, the area would be monitored as outlined in the management plan. This would have a positive impact on the wilderness. This is a comprehensive wilderness monitoring program directed toward achieving the stated plan objectives through the implementation of the proposed management actions and policies. This would benefit the wilderness by providing additional baseline data and by documenting change as it occurs. If change occurs BLM will determine necessary actions.

An LAC plan would be developed if the use of wilderness increases and the need is identified for limits to protect the wilderness resource. This LAC plan could help identify adverse impacts to the wilderness early so acceptable changes in management could be made.

Recreation

This would have a positive impact on the soil, water and vegetative resources through reduction of soil erosion and vegetation loss by correcting erosion problems as they are identified. The visual impacts from established trails would adversely impact the area's natural and primitive character.

Recreation management actions would not have significant adverse impacts on natural values. They would have beneficial impacts by providing for restoration or protection of areas adversely impacted by visitor use.

Allowing campfires in the wilderness would not have significant adverse impacts on naturalness and solitude since visitor use is very low. Visitors would be encouraged to use camp stoves as a means of reducing impacts of fire use.

In light of low historic recreational horse use and other visitor use throughout the wilderness, unrestricted use would not have significant adverse impacts on natural, scenic or other known resource values. Horse use would be monitored to determine if adverse affects were occurring and action taken to mitigate and limit use as necessary.

Water

Periodic monitoring of recreational water resources for contamination would have beneficial consequences by providing information on whether water purification

was needed. It would also provide information on any significant change in water quality that could affect riparian vegetation and/or wildlife. There would be an adverse impact on solitude for recreational visitors who happened to meet BLM personnel collecting water samples.

Wildlife/Riparian

Riparian areas would be monitored and action taken when necessary to prevent deterioration. Monitoring the riparian areas would document change and direct management action when necessary to prevent any significant adverse impacts to both wildlife and riparian areas. Maintaining or improving current riparian condition could benefit recreationists, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Grazing Management

Monitoring Studies

Restrictions placed on motorized vehicle use would have a beneficial consequence for naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation.

Range Improvement Inspection and Maintenance

Some low adverse impacts to livestock permittees could occur from increased restrictions on motorized use. Minor negative social and economic impacts could result because permittees would have to adjust their operations to accommodate the approved maintenance schedule. This could reduce efficiency of the permittees' operations and increase operating costs.

No significant adverse biological or physical impacts would be anticipated from any of the approved vehicle use. Implementation of the proposed range maintenance plan would cause occasional minor adverse impacts on solitude and recreational experiences of some visitors due to permittee vehicle use.

The restrictions on permittee vehicle use caused by the proposed maintenance schedule would result in slightly positive effects on naturalness, solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation.

ALTERNATIVE A

The impacts of Alternative A would be similar to the Proposed Action except the area would be closed to all requests for non-emergency motorized vehicle use. This could have a minor adverse effect on permittees who have range improvements in the area. However, no permittee currently has a need for motorized ground support. This alternative also would have a negative impact on those who request helicopter landings for any non-emergency use (i.e., wildlife monitoring, water quality sampling, etc.). This alternative would have a beneficial impact on wilderness users, solitude, the area's naturalness and other unconfined recreational opportunities.

Administration

Under this alternative the BLM would initiate a fee permit system and limit group size to 10, one group per day. The alternative would also require a registration system designed to provide user and safety information. This alternative would involve greater restrictions on visitors to CPWA than would the other alternatives. Requiring a fee and reservation system would have both adverse and beneficial impacts on wilderness. The action would reduce the number of people who would be able to visit the area but in turn would benefit those visitors who wish to have a wilderness experience free from encounters with other people. It would also reduce visitor use impacts on wilderness resources.

Aircraft Use

The aircraft use restrictions would have a positive impact on recreational experiences by reducing the opportunity for motorized encounters within the wilderness. It could have a negative effect on wildlife in that the Arizona Game & Fish Department would be restricted in their ability to monitor big game animals or other sensitive species, habitat condition, fawning success, age class, or composition and in establishing appropriate hunting/management regulations.

Monitoring

Benefits to wilderness from the LAC process would be earlier detection of problems that could cause deterioration of wilderness values. These problems, detected early, could be changed or eliminated avoiding permanent or severe damage to the wilderness.

Recreation

Campfires

This alternative would be more restrictive on visitors, reducing their opportunity for unconfined recreation free from rules or regulations.

Water

The impacts of this alternative would be the same as the Proposed Action Alternative, except all the negative impacts would be greater with increased sampling and monitoring. The positive impacts may or may not be greater, based on the results of the tests and public tolerance of sampling.

Wildlife/Riparian

Same as the Proposed Action Alternative.

Grazing Management

Same as the Proposed Action Alternative.

Range improvement
Inspection and Maintenance

Same as the Proposed Action Alternative.

NO ACTION

Under this alternative, motorized vehicle/equipment use authorization would be considered where used previously and consistent with the minimum tool process. Impacts would not significantly change from the pre-wilderness situation, which involved uncontrolled occasional vehicle use, primarily pickup trucks on existing roads and on the fringes of the wilderness. Motorized vehicle use would be expected to be greater than the Proposed Action, but would still be regulated by the minimum tool. Adverse impacts to wilderness values such as solitude, wildlife and naturalness would occur. This would involve more instances of adverse impact through increased use of vehicles than either the Proposed Action or Alternative A.

Administration

Same as Proposed Action Alternative.

Aircraft Use

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no imposed restrictions on aircraft flights. Landing of helicopters would be the same as the Proposed Action Alternative. This alternative could have a negative impact on wilderness users by allowing aircraft use to increase. This would adversely affect the area's naturalness, solitude and unconfined recreational opportunities.

Monitoring

Same as the Proposed Action.

Recreation

Trail & Access Route Management

Same as Proposed Action Alternative.

Campfires

This alternative could result in increased destruction of vegetation for use in campfires, construction of fire rings and charcoal piles all of which would adversely affect natural wilderness values and might detract from the wilderness experience of some visitors.

Water

There would be a positive benefit on solitude, but a negative benefit on users who want to know if water purification is needed. There would be a potential negative affect from not knowing if changes in water quality are occurring.

Wildlife/Riparian

If riparian areas were not monitored, the potential for adverse impacts exist through deterioration of springs and wet areas. These impacts may continue because monitoring studies were not established. This would have potentially adverse impacts on natural values, wildlife, livestock and recreational use.

Grazing Management

The No Action Alternative would have a slightly negative impact on natural values, solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation through periodic motor vehicle use in the wilderness. Other values would be negligible.

Range Improvement
Inspection & Maintenance

Same as the Proposed Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts

An assessment of cumulative impacts was made for the three alternatives discussed above. It has been determined that there will be no cumulative impacts for each of these alternatives.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Persons and Agencies Consulted

Public Wilderness coordination meetings (See Appendix E)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD
FINAL COTTONWOOD POINT WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN
DR #AZ-010-91-042

DECISION AND RATIONALE: The selected alternative for this plan is The Proposed Action. This alternative was selected because it is consistent with public comments received on the Draft Plan, legislative mandates, and Bureau policy.

Findings of No Significant Impact: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Prepared by: Larry J. Gearhart — 8/21/91
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Arizona Strip District — Date

Recommended by: Robert D. Rosenbaum — 8/22/91
Area Manager, Vermillion Resource Area — Date

Recommended by: L. William Lamb — 8/22/91
District Manager, Arizona Strip District — Date

Approved by: Lester K. Rosenkranz — 10/1/91
State Director, Arizona — Date

VI COST ESTIMATES

The following are estimated costs to implement the actions specified in this plan and summarized in the implementation sequence section.

1. Nonrecurring expenses from planned wilderness management actions:

- Prepare and print visitor brochure	$ 5,000
- Survey and monument wilderness boundary	9,000
- Place boundary, interpretative and regulatory signs at access points	4,000
- Complete identified inventories of:	6,000
- Springs and seeps	
- Existing structures	
- Unique habitats	
- Cultural resources	
- Areas to be monitored for visitor use impacts	
- Develop monitoring program and plan to include:	3,000
- Recreation use	
- Grazing use	
- Vegetation utilization, condition and trend	
- Cultural resource sites	
- Riparian areas	
- Water source quality and quantity	
- Off-highway vehicle use	
- Complete search and rescue agreement	2,000
- Obtain access easement through private land in Cottonwood Canyon	15,000
SUBTOTAL	$44,000

2. Anticipated annual expenses beyond those on nonrecurring list

- Workmonths for wilderness management, use supervision and monitoring	$30,000
- Vehicles	5,000
- Travel	1,000
- Sign maintenance	1,000
- Negotiations to acquire inholdings or complete exchanges	3,000
SUBTOTAL	$40,000

3. Wilderness management-related actions funded by other resource programs (no cost estimates available)

- Coordination with grazing permittees
- Revision of allotment management plans
- Revision of habitat management plan
- Mining-related work

VII APPENDICES

APPENDIX A
WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION

Table 1A

Rare plant species which may occur in the Cottonwood Point Wilderness
Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District, Arizona

Amsonia tomentosa stenophylla	State sensitive (S2)	
Argemone arizonica	USFWS Candidate (Category 2)	Regional endemic
Astragalus beathii	State sensitive (S1)	Arizona endemic
Astragalus barnebyi	State sensitive (S2)	Regional endemic
Astragalus striatiflorus	State sensitive (S2)	Regional endemic
Ipomopsis frutescens	State sensitive (S2)	Regional endemic
Pediocactus bradyi	Federal Endangered	Regional endemic
Pediocactus paradinei	Federal Candidate (Category 1)	Regional endemic
Argemone arizonica	Federal Candidate (Category 2)	Regional endemic
Psorothamnus arborescens pubescens	State sensitive (S2)	Arizona endemic
Sclerocactus spinosior	USFWS Candidate (Category 2)	Regional endemic

Source: Arizona Strip District, Arizona

Table 2A

Riparian and Floodplain Plant Species
Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip District, Arizona

Fremont cottonwood	Columbine	Box elder	Licorice
Sandbar willow	Monkey flower	Dixie black willow	Climbing Milkweed
Tamarisk	Plantago	Single leaf ash	Beeplant
Cattail	Helleborine	Bulrush	Slender wheatgrass
Maidenhair fern	Stickseed	Wire rush	Bentgrass
Rocky mountain rush	Spike redtop	Wood rush	Saltgrass
Aster	Bromegrass	Baccharis	Commonreed
Arrowweed	Foxtail barley	Scouring rush	Rabbitfoot
Horned pondweed	Bluegrass	Asparagus	
False solmon seal	Alkaligrass	Buttercup	

Source: Arizona Strip District, Arizona

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

APPENDIX A

Table 3A
Birds of Prey--Documented and Probable Occurrences
Arizona Strip District, Arizona

Documented Occurrences		Probable Occurrences
American kestral	Turkey vulture	Long-eared owl
Red-tailed hawk	Rough-legged hawk	Spotted owl
Golden eagle	Peregrine falcon	Screech owl
Prairie falcon	Sharp shinned hawk	Saw-whet owl
Coopers hawk	Bald eagle	Black hawk
Ferruginous hawk	Great horned owl	
Northern harrier	Flammulated owl	
Goshawk	Burrowing owl	

Source: Arizona Strip District, Arizona

APPENDIX B

LIVESTOCK GRAZING DATA AND RANGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WILDERNESS AREA

Livestock Grazing Data

Allotment Name	Allotment No.	Total AUMs Preference	Susp. AUMs Preference	Active AUMs Preference	Active AUMs in Wilderness
Cottonwood Point	4110	574	330	224	75
Cottonwood	4026	119	-	119	37
Cane Beds	4188	84	-	84	10
Lane	5271	54	-	54	3
Ferrin	5246	274	152	120	118
Colorado City	-	24	-	24	6

Range Improvements

No. of Spring Developments	3
Miles of Pipeline	0.05
Troughs	2
Miles of Fence	2.75
No. of Livestock Trails	1 (0.5 mi.)

Range Improvements by Allotment

Allotment Name	Fence	Spring Develop.	Well	Trail
Cane Beds	0.5 mi.	-	-	-
Colorado City	0.25 mi.	-	-	-
Cottonwood	0.25 mi.	2	-	-
Cottonwood Point	0.75 mi.	-	-	-
Ferrin	0.5 mi.	1	1	1
Lane	0.5 mi.	-	-	-
TOTALS	2.75 mi.	3	1	1

Source: Arizona Strip District, Arizona

APPENDIX C

PROCESS FOR ADMINISTERING MOTORIZED VEHICLE/MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT USES IN LIVESTOCK GRAZING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Congressional guidance in House Report 96-1126 provides overall direction for management of grazing including criteria for the possible use of motorized vehicles in livestock management or maintenance of range improvements.

The House report's intent is that livestock grazing and necessary facilities to support a livestock grazing program will be permitted to continue when established prior to wilderness designation. The House report further states that wilderness designation should not prevent the maintenance of existing fences or other livestock management improvements, nor the construction and maintenance of new fences or improvements which are consistent with allotment management plans and/or which are necessary for the protection of the range.

The process depicted on the flow chart following this narrative will be used in administering these nonconforming but accepted uses in accordance with Congressional intent and BLM's Wilderness Management Policy.

A list of range improvements known to be located in the Cottonwood Point Wilderness Area has been compiled and is provided in Appendix B.

Data from sources such as project files, maintenance inspections, aerial photographs, employee and permittee knowledge, water inventories and field inventories will be compiled for each project when necessary. This data will provide answers to the following questions:

a. What is present use of the project and is it needed with respect to the future AMP or grazing programs?

b. Is the project accessible by motorized vehicle?

c. Was motorized access used in its maintenance prior to wilderness designation?

d. Is motorized access necessary for present and future maintenance?

e. Can part or all of the maintenance be done by non-motorized means?

f. Age of the project?

g. Condition of the project?

h. Frequency and duration of possible motorized needs?

i. Type of motorized equipment (if any) that may be appropriate or available?

Using this information and following the BLM Wilderness Management Policy (Chapter III.H.1.d and e) criteria the authorized officer will, after consultation with the affected permittee, determine and document by individual project which are needed to continue the allotment's grazing management programs.

Those not needed will no longer be maintained, and the party responsible for maintenance will be notified to discontinue maintenance. An Environmental Analysis (EA)/Decision Record (DR) will be prepared to analyze impacts of removing the abandoned projects considering possible cultural values, practicality, feasibility and use of motorized vehicles in removal. The DR will then document by name those projects where removal will be considered and those that will be allowed to naturally disintegrate.

APPENDIX C

Developments which appear to be needed will be further analyzed relative to the need for and type of motorized equipment that may be necessary for their maintenance based again on the information described by the above list. They will be grouped into three categories (Motorized Equipment Not Needed, Motorized Equipment Needed, Earth-Moving Equipment Needed) for analysis purposes based on need for or type of possible motorized vehicle and/or equipment use.

Any project may be independently evaluated through the remainder of the process at separate times for either routine maintenance or reconstruction where more equipment may be necessary.

For those projects where it is conclusively determined that neither motorized vehicles nor mechanized equipment will be required in maintenance, no further analysis will be made. A list of these projects will be prepared, the grazing permittee notified and the list and maintenance decision made a condition of the AMP and/or grazing permits by reference. On this basis, the permittees will be authorized to proceed with non-motorized maintenance.

Compliance with these non-motorized requirements will be a component of BLM's wilderness monitoring program.

A second proposed list by priority of need will be prepared for those projects where occasional motorized vehicle use is deemed necessary to inspect or maintain the improvements. Normal vehicle use expected would be All Terrain Vehicles or trucks up to 2-1/2 ton to haul materials or livestock.

A site-specific EA will be prepared to analyze environmental impacts of alternatives with respect to type, frequency of or access routes for motorized vehicles on each individual project or group of projects where the proposed vehicle uses and potential environmental impacts are the same. It will also consider factors such as minimum tools or possible project relocation outside of the wilderness area.

These EAs will be prepared in priority order as rapidly as possible following issuance of the final Wilderness Management Plan.

A DR will be prepared to document the alternative selected and mitigating measures for each project.

Upon completion of these EAs and DRs, a written maintenance plan will be prepared in consultation with the permittee and based on mitigating measures developed in the EA and in conformance with the DR. It will detail timing, vehicle type, number of trips, authorized person(s) and record keeping requirements.

This plan will be incorporated into the AMP and grazing permit by reference and will, upon Bureau approval, authorize the permittee to use motorized equipment as specified during the normal grazing period for the allotment.

In making uses authorized in the maintenance plan, each permittee will be required to keep accurate records of date, time, type vehicle, trail used, purpose and duration of any motorized entry. This log will be submitted to the BLM at the end of the grazing period.

Field compliance on these motorized vehicle entries will be made and documented. Findings can then be compared to the records submitted by the permittee to detect and correct discrepancies or violations.

Vehicle entry deemed necessary specifically for livestock management purposes will be processed in the manner described above with the same constraints, reporting requirements and monitoring procedures.

The third project grouping includes those developments where heavy earth-moving equipment is deemed necessary. These proposals will require a minimum 60-day notice from a permittee of the possible need for project maintenance.

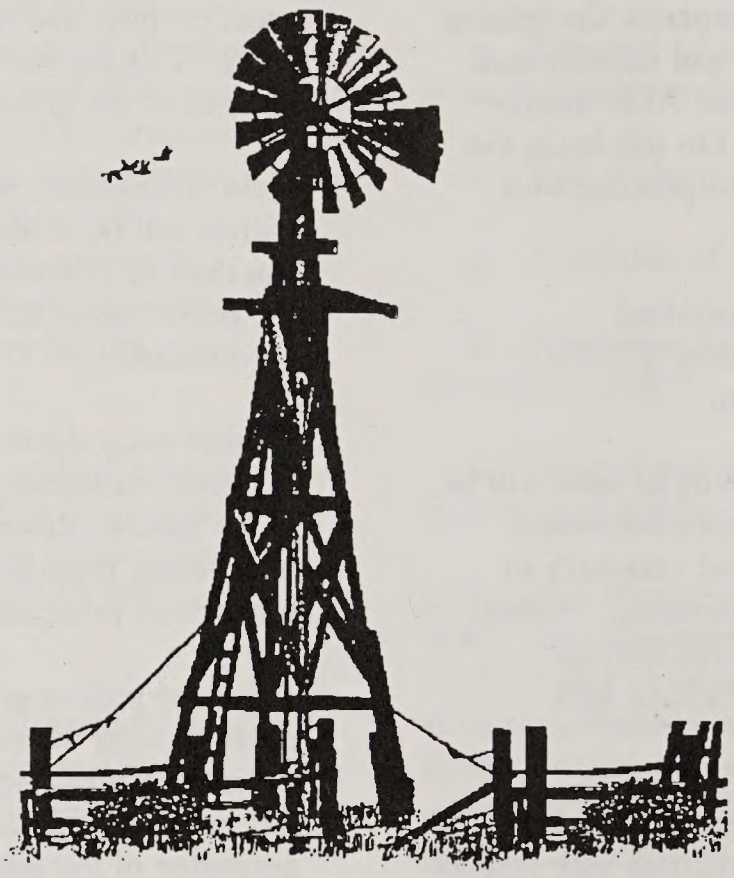
The project is examined in the field and a site-specific EA prepared that examines the need for maintenance and alternatives of access, equipment, tool(s), timing, possible relocation as well as recommending mitigation measures and reclamation requirements.

APPENDIX C

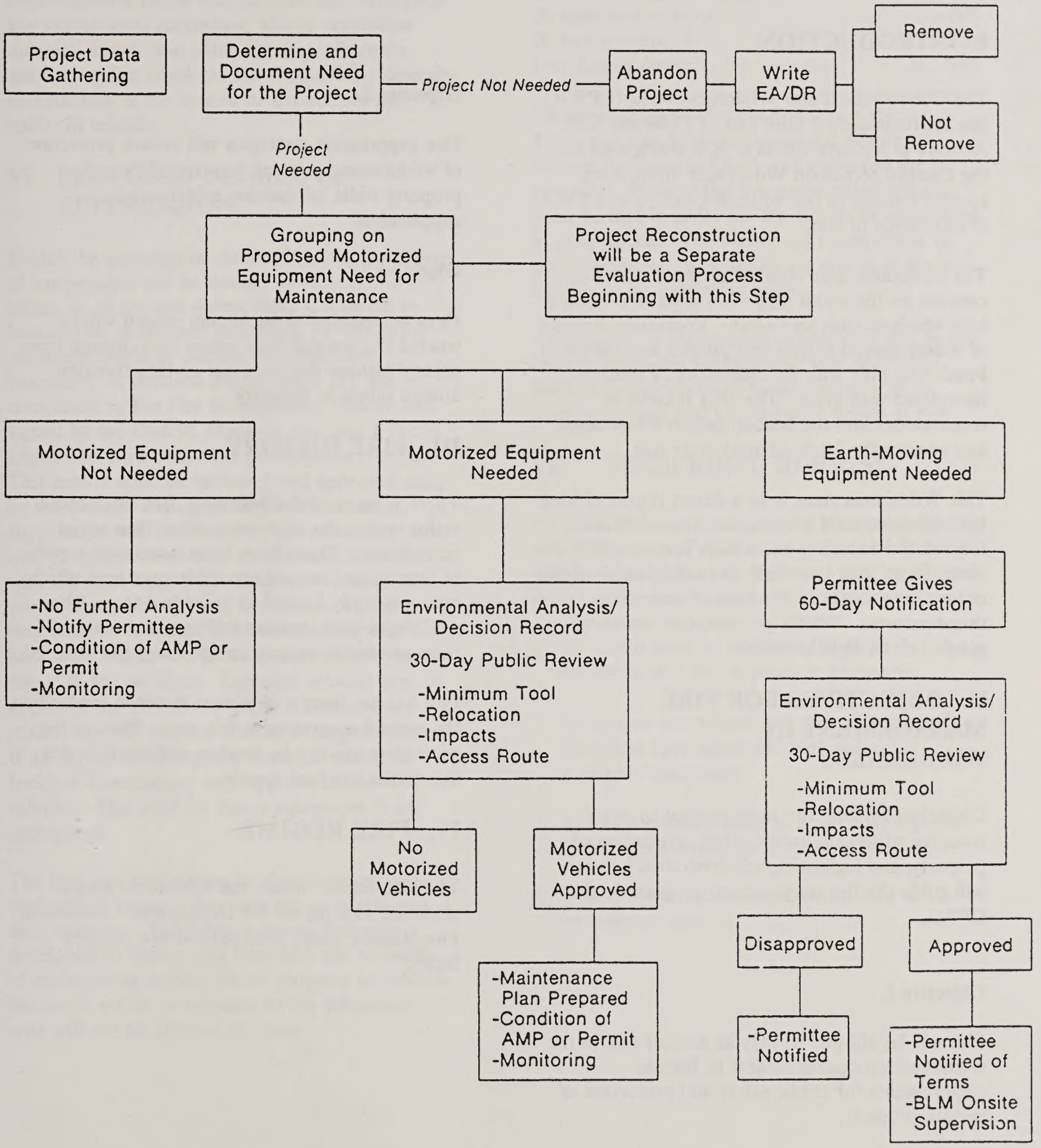
The Bureau District or Resource Area will prepare a DR that selects an alternative with mitigating measures or a no action alternative. If the decision permits an action to proceed, the permittee will be notified of the terms and timing. Standard procedure will require a BLM wilderness or surface protection specialist on site during any earth-moving operations to assure compliance with terms and to supervise reclamation.

Proposed use of vehicles for all purposes (livestock management, improvement inspection or maintenance) will be considered in total prior to approval and trips combined where practicable to minimize the overall amount of vehicle use.

All inventories, lists analysis, EAs, DRs, monitoring and compliance files will be available for public review on request.



MAJOR STEPS OF MOTORIZED VEHICLE/MECHANIZED EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT PROCESS



APPENDIX D

COTTONWOOD POINT WILDERNESS AREA

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

The Cottonwood Point Wilderness Area (CPWA) lies approximately 1 mile east of Colorado City, Arizona in Mohave County. It is contiguous to the Canaan Mountain Wilderness Study Area located directly to the north in Utah. The CPWA is 6500 acres in size.

The wilderness area consists of sheer cliffs and canyons on the south topped by a mesa of rolling hills which extends into Utah. Vegetation consists of widely spaced pinyon and juniper and scattered Ponderosa pine with an understory of brush intermixed with grass. The area is close to communities and the Kaibab Indian Reservation and goes to the Utah-Arizona state line.

This Wilderness Area is in a desert region of long hot summers, mild winters, low annual rainfall, low relative humidity and a high percentage of sunny days. Just over half the precipitation that occurs here comes in the form of summer thunderstorms. Winter precipitation occurs as gentle rain or light snowfall.

II. OBJECTIVES FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS

Objectives relating fire management to other resource programs, public safety, protection of property, and legislative/administrative policies will guide the fire management program in the CPWA.

Objective 1.

Fire will be allowed to play its natural role in the wilderness ecosystem subject to Bureau requirements for public safety and protection of private property.

Objective 2.

Fire suppression strategies will ensure protection of wilderness resources, human safety and property while minimizing evidence of suppression.

Objective 3.

Fires determined to be human caused will be treated like natural fires unless they diverge from natural historic fire behavior or they threaten human safety or property.

III. FIRE HISTORY

There is no recorded history of fire suppression action within the wilderness other than aerial surveillance. There have been occasional reports of fires in and around the wilderness area which were generally limited to individual trees. The wilderness area contains little ground cover and trees are widely spaced so fire danger is minimal.

Fire has not been a dominant factor in controlling the natural ecosystem in this area. Fires in the wilderness are few in number and small in size due to the low fuel density.

IV. FIRE REGIME

The Fire regime within the wilderness area is classified as a (0) on the Heinselman Continental Fire Regime scale: "No natural fire (or very little)."

APPENDIX D

V. NATURAL ROLE OF FIRE

Within the CPWA fire is not a significant environmental factor that initiates and terminates key vegetational succession; affects vegetation mosaics, insects and plant disease; influences nutrient cycles; regulates the productivity; diversity and stability of the system or determines the habits of wildlife.

VI. PROPOSED DEGREE OF SUPPRESSION

Under the prescription outlined below, the degree of suppression will be limited to observation by either air or ground unless there is a threat to human life, man-made structures, or high-value resources inside or outside the wilderness boundary. A decision matrix (page 55) will be completed by the Fire Management Officer and signed by the District Manager any time a fire is allowed to burn under the prescription criteria. This matrix must be reviewed and approved daily by the District Manager. If there is a threat, suppression will be limited to the minimum tools and equipment necessary to accomplish the task with the least impact to wilderness values. The use of natural barriers as fire breaks will be emphasized. Minimal line construction with handtools will be the primary method utilized to suppress any wildfires. Essential vehicles may be approved for all interior trails. Cross-country vehicle use will require District Manager approval. If an urgent or emergency situation exists, the Incident Commander may approve the use of vehicles. The need for heavy equipment is not anticipated.

The fuel type that occurs in the wilderness area is unclassified because the fuels are so sparse and discontinuous. The following prescription is developed to ensure that fires with the potential of endangering human life or property or valuable resources within or adjacent to the wilderness area will not be allowed to occur.

Prescription

Temperature	<95 ◦ F
Minimum Relative Humidity	> 8%
10 hour fuel moisture	> 5%
20 foot windspeed	< 25mph
Live fuel moisture	> 110%

These readings will be obtained from the Telegraph Flat Remote Automatic Weather Station (Located in Utah) and corrected for elevation. Four of the five prescription criteria must be met in order for the fire to be considered in prescription. The windspeed requirement of the prescription must always be met in order for the fire to be allowed to burn.

This degree of suppression is proposed due to fire history, minimum fuel loading, lack of ground fuels, and inaccessibility to the majority of the wilderness area and low resource values at risk.

VII. PRESCRIBED BURNING

No prescribed burns are currently planned for this wilderness area. Pre-planned prescribed burning with ignition by Bureau personnel may be allowed on a case-by-case basis for the following purposes:

1. To reintroduce or maintain the natural condition of a fire-dependent ecosystem,

2. To restore fire where past strict fire control measures have interfered with natural ecological processes,

3. Where a primary value of a given wilderness will be perpetuated as a result of burning, or

4. Where it will perpetuate a threatened or endangered species.

APPENDIX D

VIII. FIRE BEHAVIOR

Expected fire behavior will generally range from low intensity, extremely small, creeping surface fires to an occasional torching out of individual trees or small groups of trees. Rate of spread will be none or very little due to the sparse vegetation, low fuel loading and nonconformity of fine fuels.

IX. SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Due to the low fuel loading, sparse vegetation, and historically low fire occurrence, smoke will be an insignificant impact on the airshed in this area.

During initial combustion and the smoldering phase of a fire in the wilderness, the suspended particulate matter emitted into the atmosphere will have little or no effect on visibility or health downwind.

APPENDIX D

DECISION MATRIX

Life or Property Threatened ..... (YES) Suppress
(NO)
Boundary Threatened ..... (YES) Suppress
(NO)
Number of Prescribed Fires <5 ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)
Smoke Management Favorable ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)
Prescription Criteria Met*
Temperature < 95◦F.
Minimum Relative Humidity > 08% ..... (NO) Suppress
10 Hr. Fuel Moisture > 5%
20 Ft. Windspeed < 25 mph
Live Fuel Moisture > 110%
(YES)
Current Weather Forecast Favorable ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)
Current Fire Behavior Favorable ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)
Ten Day Forecast Favorable ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)
Equipment/Personnel Available ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)
Fire is Meeting Wilderness Objectives ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)
Fire is < 100 Acres in Size ..... (NO) Suppress
(YES)

MONITOR FIRE

* Four of the five prescriptions must be met to be considered in prescription. The windspeed portion of the prescription must always be met.

APPENDIX E
Public Involvement Process

During the week of May 20, 1985, public scoping meetings were held in St. George, Utah and also in Flagstaff, Kingman, Littlefield, Fredonia, and Phoenix, Arizona. The purpose of the meetings was to assist the BLM District and Resource Area Offices in identifying issues and concerns about wilderness management.

The principal points addressed were:

1. The use of Limits of Acceptable Change.

2. The development of water.

3. Boundary signs and unauthorized uses associated with the Colorado City Area.

4. Allowing Livestock use to continue.

5. Aircraft use.

6. Cultural resource vandalism.

7. Management of adjacent lands and their impact on wilderness values.

8. Acquisition of private land inholdings.

9. Access. (to the wilderness through private lands)

This plan addresses the above issues and concerns. A 45 day public review period of the draft plan was provided. The review period started with an announcement of the plans availability on Friday, April 19, 1991 in the Federal Register (Volume 56, No. 76, pg 16110). An article notifying the public of the plan was also printed in the local newspaper: The Daily Spectrum. Numerous plans were also sent out to organizations and individuals who had previously expressed an interest in resource or wilderness management on the district and asked to be kept informed of management actions.

Listed below are some of the most pertinent comments which were received concerning the draft plan:

Comment: In the Proposed Action, under Administration, it is proposed that no group limit size limit be set. Is it presently known how much use the wilderness gets presently?

Response: No group limits were set because at this time use of this wilderness can be considered to be quite low. The Recreation section under current situation states: "Current visitor use is believed to be very low; perhaps less than 100 visitor use days/year." With this low use it was not felt that there is a need for regulation of groups or group size. Monitoring of the area and public feedback on the quality of the wilderness experience will provide indicators on the need for group size limits.

==========

Comment: In the Proposed Action, under Administration, it is proposed to develop an LAC plan if use determines the need. Could an LAC start to be developed now on a low priority? This could be done in part with the establishment of standards for visitor use analysis.

Response: Development of an LAC plan was considered and given a low priority in this plan for two basic reasons: the LAC process is primarily oriented towards management of recreational use; the existing use in the area is currently quite low and is not expected to increase significantly in the life time of this plan (10 years). Development of a LAC Plan requires significant public participation and administrative costs. At this time public interest in this particular wilderness is on par with its recreational use: low. The BLM will monitor the wilderness use and if there is a significant increase in use or impacts a LAC plan would be initiated to establish indicators and standards for Limits of Acceptable Change.

==========

Comment: In the Proposed Action, under Recreation, it is proposed to allow campfires but encourage the use of backpacking camp stoves. How much downed wood is available for campfires? It would be better to say no campfires in the wilderness. This might also help some (to) eliminate wildfires in the future.

Response: At this time there is ample fuelwood available as dead and down materials on the ground. One of the major impacts of recreational use is the proliferation of campfire rings which many people build as a traditional way to control their campfires. These rings detract from the wilderness naturalness values and reflect the presence of man in the area. Most wilderness management agencies are trying to persuade wilderness users to practice "low impact" camping practices. This philosophy of minimizing the impacts of your camping use of an area by leaving the area as you found it forms the basis for requesting people to not build firerings and to preferably use campstoves. Many people feel that a campfire is part of their primitive recreational experience thus the management plan did not want to preclude this opportunity. The education process will be used to try and persuade people to not build firerings and to scatter their ashes after their fire has gone out.

The wilderness area contains very little ground cover and trees are widely spaced so wildfire danger is minimal.

==========

Comment: In the Proposed Action, under Recreation, there are no restrictions on horse/packstock use. What is the current impact of horses and packstock use on the wilderness now?

Response: At this time no known commercial outfitter/guide use of the area with horses or packstock is occurring. Local sightseers and hunters do ride in and use the area but use is considered low. Horses are licensed for winter livestock use on the Ferron Grazing Allotment.

==========

Comment: In the Proposed Action, under Wildlife Habitat Riparian Vegetation, only selected riparian areas would be monitored. All riparian areas should be monitored. Would it be possible to monitor all areas with selected ones monitored more frequently, the others monitored say once every 6 months or once a year?

Response: The riparian areas selected for monitoring in this plan are those which have had studies and inventories in the past. The District is currently inventorying its riparian areas. When the inventories are completed, Riparian Management Plans which will establish the goals and objectives for monitoring and management of Riparian Areas will be written.

==========

Comment: Riparian areas - Riparian areas are critical in the Southwest and they all should not only be monitored, but managed to improve them to their full potential, especially for wildlife. This probably means fencing to exclude livestock. Any visual distraction for recreationists would be minimal compared to the benefits. Pipes could be run to tanks outside the fence for cattle and large wildlife. Tanks can be painted to blend. Tamarisk control should be implemented wherever possible.

Response: At this time all of the known springs have been developed (with the exception of Cottonwood spring which has not been developed or fenced) with pipelines leading outside of the riparian area and with fences to exclude livestock. Cottonwood spring has a significant area with topography which is to rocky and steep for livestock to damage the outflow of water or the riparian vegetation. The need for tamarisk control has not been proposed or established as a problem in any of the spring areas at this time.

==========

Comment: You were a little vague on what you would do with firewood gathering which you do allude to as being done by locals. Firewood is readily available to locals and has no place in wilderness except for small campfires possibly.

I would like to see your plan be more explicit in how you plan to educate and enforce this issue.

Response: BLM will make a significant effort to make sure that wilderness users understand policies and management regulations related to use of the wilderness boundary and wilderness resources. Routine wilderness patrols and visitor contacts by BLM wilderness specialists and the District Ranger will also be an administrative tool to educate the public on wilderness use and ethics. Signing the boundary better, distribution of wilderness visitor use brochures describing appropriate behavior will also aid in protection of the resource.

= =

Comment: Pg 34, Cultural Resources Section: The only management activity identified in the first column is monitoring. This is somewhat confusing, as Alternative A lists inventory and nomination, neither of which are monitoring. The Cultural Resources section on page 17 discusses several activities for cultural resources that are compatible with wilderness management. These are scientific studies, educational studies, nomination of sites to the National Register, monitoring, and development of a brochure. Why is only monitoring identified on page 34? If the scientific studies activity is covered under the Administration heading on page 32, shouldn't educational studies, nomination, and inventory be identified as activities that would vary among the alternatives?

Response: Adjustments were made to Comparison Of Alternatives Table to reflect these concerns.

= =

Comment: --"the polygamists colony at short creek, now Colorado City, had prepared some 'hideouts' in and around an area which they pointed to, which might well be in the designated wilderness area. These 'hideouts' were in case the authorities arrived to arrest the polygamists, so I recall."---I urge you to view any structures which may be related to the Mormon Fundamentalists qua religious dissenters as part of our national cultural heritage to be preserved and protected just as much as Archaic or Anasazi ruins. If such structures exist within the wilderness-and of course my recollections may be faulty, they should remain."

Response: The Bureau is not aware of any structures as described in this comment. If they were constructed as "hideouts"; it's very possible they do exist but are so well hidden they have not been identified by our agency. If such structures do exist and are discovered in the process of monitoring they would be evaluated for their historic significance according to the National Register of Historic Places criteria for eligibility.

= =

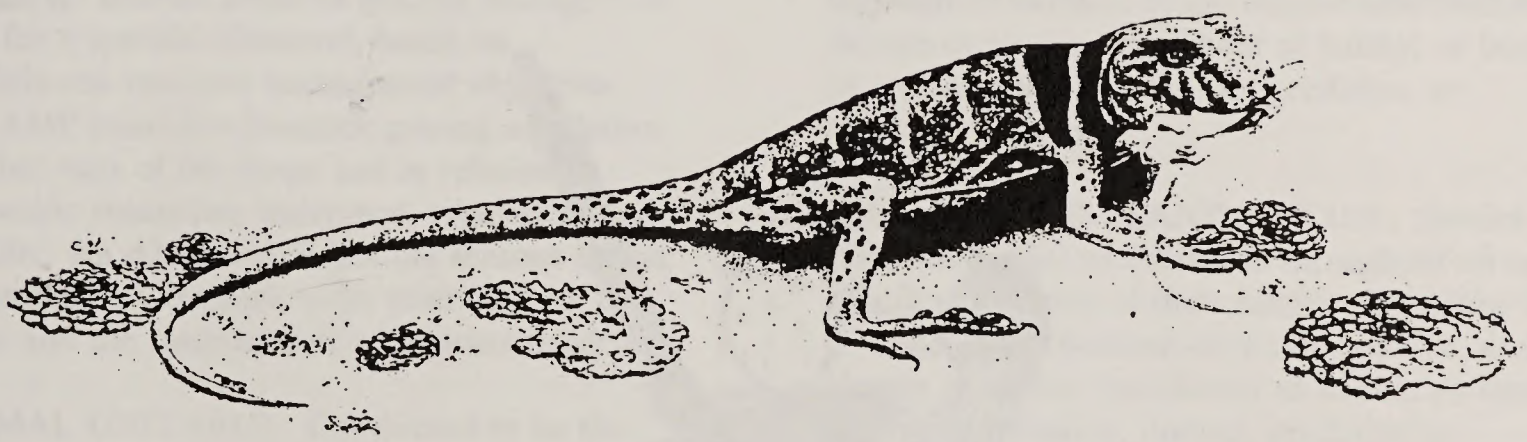
Comment: (Concerning the cultural survival of the Southern Paiute People)--there were still a significant amount of "traditional" uses of lands in the Utah-Nevada basing area, and in fact some "traditional" uses had been revived. Maintaining and reviving traditions is a critical issue for most Indian groups today, even if they don't articulate their positions as part of government planning efforts. Nothing in the Wilderness Management Plan indicates that the Southern Paiute from the adjoining Kaibab Indian Reservation (or from any of the Utah bands) make use of the lands in the WSA, or have done so in the past. But that could be because their current and potential uses were not considered. I urge you to specifically acknowledge the legitimacy of "traditional-religious-food quest" activities by Southern Paiute people such as piñon nut harvesting, hunting, wood gathering, etc. within the Cottonwood Point Wilderness. If that requires otherwise non-conforming uses in the wilderness (driving a pickup in, etc.) that should be appropriate.

Response: Hunting and piñon nut harvesting are "traditional" activities that do not require use of motorized vehicles and thus do not conflict with the wilderness management policies. Firewood gathering for use in campfires on site is also a permitted activity. Gathering of firewood for personal use using a motorized vehicle is not consistent with the Bureau's wilderness policy for excepted motorized use in wilderness areas. Also, use of motorized vehicles would be a historic use and would not qualify as a "traditional" use.

==========

Comment: We strongly support the stated management objective listed in the document under the subheading, Water, page 13. It says, "Allow water to play its natural role by maintaining natural processes as free from human intervention or contamination as possible." We recommend that Cottonwood Spring, the only undeveloped of this management, and one of the few quality riparian areas of the Vermillion Resource Area, should be kept as is (undeveloped) at all cost. Riparian functions and values to wildlife are irreplaceable. Stateline and Maidenhair springs might be able to be improved for wildlife, as they have been drastically modified for other uses.

Response: We agree.



APPENDIX F

List of Plan Participants

Name	Position	Role
Ilene Anderson	Realty Specialist	Reviewer
Julian Anderson	Assistant District Manager	Reviewer
Hailey Andrus	Cartographic Aid	Cover Page
Linda Barwick	Management Assistant	Typing
John Branch	Geologist	Reviewer
Robert Davis	Natural Resource Specialist	Reviewer
Thomas Folks	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Reviewer
Larry Gearhart	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Plan Writer
Carl Gossard	Fire Management Officer	Fire Plan
Lee Hughes	Range Conservationist	Reviewer
Aline La Forge	Archeologist	Reviewer
William Lamb	Arizona Strip District Manager	Reviewer
Amy Lewis	Surface Protection Specialist	Reviewer
Ray Mapston	Associate District Manager	Reviewer
Kenneth Moore	Planning & Environmental Coordinator	EA Writer
Keith Pearson	Sociologist/Planner	Reviewer
Jan Poorman	Writer/Editor	Reviewer
Sue Richardson	Wilderness Program Leader	Reviewer
Holly Roberts	Natural Resource Specialist	Reviewer
Robert Roudabush	Vermillion Area Manager	Reviewer
Robert Sandberg	Supervisory Range Conservationist	Reviewer
Ken Shurtz	Cartographic Technician	GIS
Mike Small	Wildlife Biologist	Reviewer
Robert Smith	Natural Resource Specialist	Reviewer
Curtis Warrick	Wildlife Biologist	Reviewer

APPENDIX G

Glossary

ACTIVE GRAZING PREFERENCE. The total animal unit months (AUMs) that a livestock operator allotment is licensed to use in a year. Also referred to as qualifications.

ACTIVE NONUSE (GRAZING). The active grazing privileges not used or paid for by an operation during a year. Active nonuse and active use equal active grazing preference or qualifications.

ACTIVE USE (GRAZING). The number of AUMs that a livestock operation actually uses and pays for during a year.

ALLOTMENT. A land area where one or more operators graze their livestock. It generally consists of public land but may include parcels of private and state-owned lands. The number of livestock and season of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of one or several pastures.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP). An official Bureau livestock grazing management plan for a specific allotment, based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources: watershed, vegetation, and wildlife. An AMP establishes the seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on the range and the rangeland developments needed.

ANIMAL UNIT (AU). Considered to be the forage required for one mature (1,000 pound) cow or the equivalent based upon average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds dry matter per day (Range Term Glossary Committee, 1974).

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM). The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for 1 month.

CARRYING CAPACITY (RECREATION). The maximum number of people at one time that an area or facility can accommodate without impairing the natural, cultural or developed resource.

CULTURAL RESOURCES. Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of prehistoric or historic human activities, occupations and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures or objects, including works of art, architecture and engineering. Cultural resources are commonly discussed as prehistoric and historic values, but each period represents a part of the full continuum of cultural values from the earliest to the most recent.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS. Impacts occurring as a result of a succession of activities over a period of time.

ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES. Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Existence may be endangered because of the destruction, drastic change or severe curtailment of habitat or because of over exploitation, disease, predation or unknown reasons.

ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES. Species of plants in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges. Existence may be endangered because of the destruction, drastic change or severe curtailment of habitat or because of over exploitation, disease, predation or unknown reasons. Plant taxa from very limited areas, e.g., the type localities only, or from restricted fragile habitats usually are considered endangered. See Threatened Plant Species.

EPHEMERAL STREAM. A stream that flows only briefly after a storm or during snowmelt. See Perennial Stream.

APPENDIX G

HABITAT. A specific set of physical conditions that surround the single species, a group of species or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN (HMP). An official Bureau plan for a specific geographical area of public land that identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and out- lines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE (LAC). The amount of human-caused change to biophysical or social components which is tolerable without the loss of desired wilderness conditions.

LIVESTOCK OPERATOR. An individual, family, corporation or other entity that runs a livestock operation. An operator may have a single allotment, more than one allotment, or a portion of one or more allotments.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP). A land use plan for public lands that provides a set of goals and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT.
(1) Any device, vehicle or machine for transporting personnel or material with wheels, tracks or skids, or by flotation, for traveling over land, water or snow, and is propelled by a nonliving power source contained or carried on or within the device, or (2) a bicycle or hang-glider.

MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT. "Motorized equipment" means any machine activated by a non- living power source, except small battery powered, handcarried devices such as flashlights, shavers, Geiger counters and cameras.

MOTOR VEHICLES. "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle which is self propelled or any vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from batteries.

MULTIPLE USE. "...the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values, and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." (From Section 103, FLPMA).

NATURALNESS. An area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (From Section 2(c), Wilderness Act).

NONCONFORMING USES. Private rights and certain other uses that were authorized prior to wilderness designation and that Congress has directed to be allowed to continue even though they generally do not conform to the intent of wilderness designation.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV). Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland or other natural terrain,

excluding (a) any registered motorboat, (b) any fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergencies and any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense, and (c) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the respective agency head under a permit, lease, license, or contract.

PERENNIAL STREAM. A stream that flows throughout the year.

PETROGLYPH. An art figure or symbol cut, carved or pecked into a stone surface.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION. Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreation.

PRIMITIVE AREA. A natural, wild and undeveloped area, essentially removed from the effects of civilization.

PUBLIC LAND. Formal name for lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT. A structure, development or treatment used in concert with management to rehabilitate, protect and improve public land and its resources to arrest rangeland deterioration; and to improve forage condition, fish and wildlife habitat, watershed protection and livestock production, all consistent with land use plans.

RAPTORS. Birds of prey.

RESOURCE AREA. An administrative division of a BLM District, which is headed by an area manager.

RIPARIAN. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream or other body of water. Normally used to refer to the plants of all types that grow along streams or around springs.

ROADLESS. The absence of roads that have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

SOLITUDE. The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation in a lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

SPECIAL RECREATION AREA. Recreation areas where congressionally recognized recreation values exist or where significant public recreation issues or management concerns occur. Special or more intensive types of management are typically needed in these areas.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES. Resources not required for an area to be designated as a wilderness but that are considered in assessing the wilderness potential of an area. Such values include ecological, geologic, and other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

SUSPENDED GRAZING PREFERENCE. That portion of a grazing preference which has been suspended and for which active grazing use will not be reauthorized until forage is available and allocated for livestock grazing use on a sustained yield basis.

THREATENED ANIMAL SPECIES. Any animal species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range. See Endangered Animal Species.

THREATENED PLANT SPECIES. Species of plants that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges, including species categorized as rare, very rare, or depleted. See Endangered Plant Species.

UNNECESSARY OR UNDUE DEGRADATION. Surface disturbance greater than normally expected from an activity. The effects of careless operations on other resources and land uses, including those resources and uses outside the area of operations. Failure to initiate and complete reasonable mitigation measures,

including reclamation of disturbed areas, or creation of a nuisance may constitute unnecessary or undue degradation. Failure to comply with applicable environmental protection statutes and regulations thereunder will constitute unnecessary or undue degradation.

VALID EXISTING RIGHTS. Private or other authorized rights existing as of the date an area was designated as wilderness. Examples are valid mining claims, rights-of-way, and access to private land within the wilderness.

VISITOR USE. Visitor use of the wilderness resource for inspiration, stimulation, solitude, relaxation, education, pleasure or satisfaction.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM) CLASSES. Classification containing specific objectives for maintaining specific objectives for maintaining or enhancing visual resources, including the kinds of structures and modifications acceptable to meet established visual goals.

WILDERNESS. An uncultivated, uninhabited, and usually roadless area set aside for preservation of natural conditions. According to Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964:

> A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to man in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS. Key characteristics of a wilderness listed in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and used by BLM in its wilderness inventory. These characteristics include size, naturalness, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive or unconfined recreation, supplemental values, and the possibility of an area returning to a natural condition.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN. An officially approved planning document for specific congressionally designated wilderness areas and in some cases lands immediately adjacent to wilderness areas (e.g., trailheads). The wilderness management plan is the vehicle for implementation of the Bureau's Wilderness Management Policy (BLM Manual Section 8560).

WITHDRAWAL. An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the lands from some or all of the public land or mineral laws.

#BLM-AZ-PT-91-006-8500

BLM LIBRARY
RS 150A BLDG. 50
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 25047
DENVER, CO 80225

QH 76.5 .A6 V477 1991a c.2
Wilderness management plan
and environmental

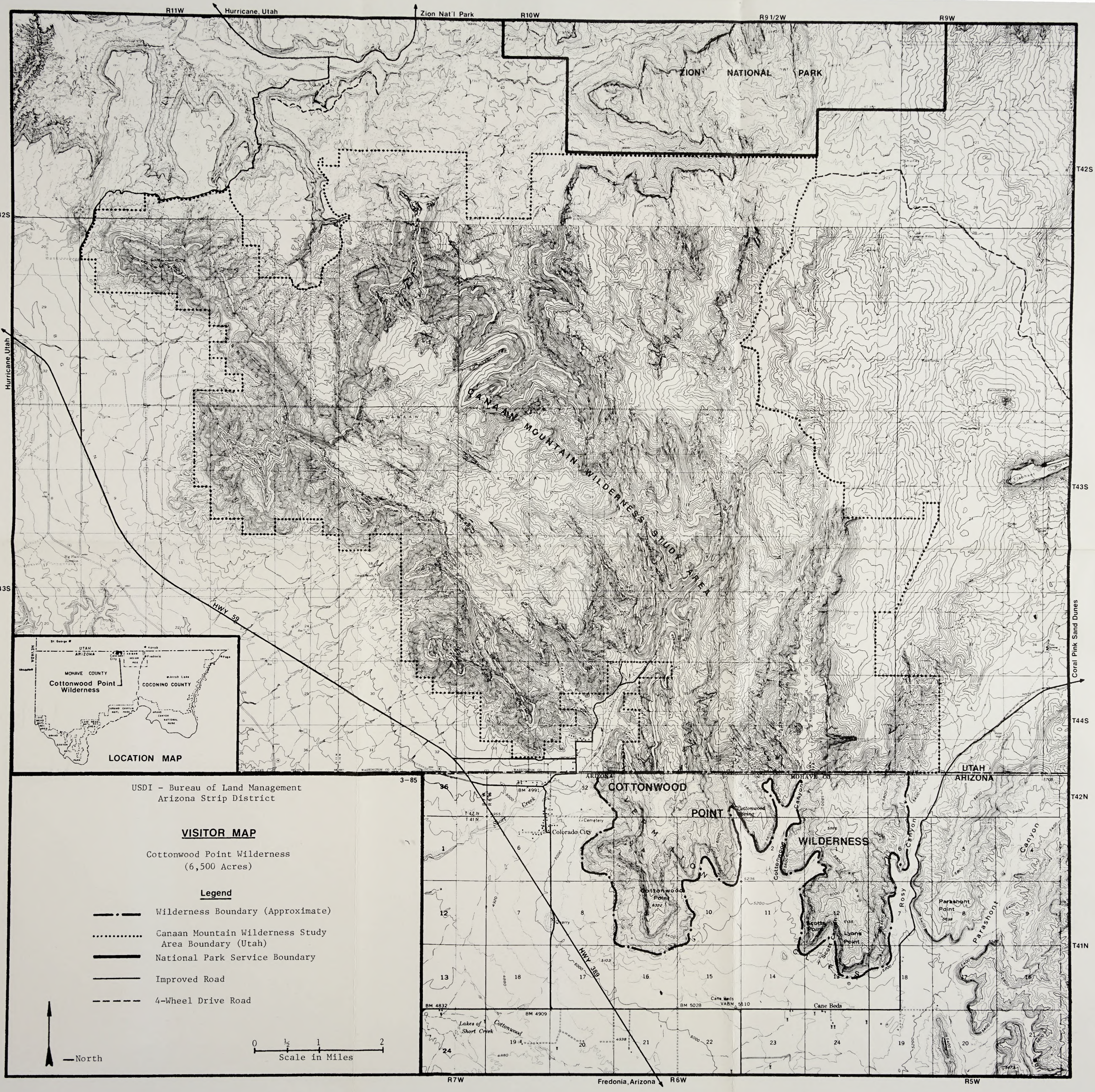
ORROWER'S CARD

6 V477 1991a c.2

management plan
onmental

ORROWER	OFFICE	DATE RETURNED

(Continued on reverse)



R11W
Hurricane, Utah
Zion Nat'l Park
R10W
R9 1/2W
R9W
ZION NATIONAL PARK
T42S
T43S
T44S
T42N
T41N
Hurricane, Utah
CANAAN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS STUDY AREA
HWY 59
Coral Pink Sand Dunes
LOCATION MAP
UTAH
ARIZONA
MOHAVE COUNTY
Cottonwood Point Wilderness
COCONINO COUNTY
3-85
COTTONWOOD POINT WILDERNESS
Colorado City
Cottonwood Point
Lyons Point
Parashont Point
Rosy Canyon
Parashont Canyon
HWY 389
Cane Beds
Lakes of Short Creek
Cottonwood
R7W
Fredonia, Arizona
R6W
R5W
USDI - Bureau of Land Management
Arizona Strip District
VISITOR MAP
Cottonwood Point Wilderness
(6,500 Acres)
Legend
Wilderness Boundary (Approximate)
Canaan Mountain Wilderness Study Area Boundary (Utah)
National Park Service Boundary
Improved Road
4-Wheel Drive Road
North
0 ½ 1 2
Scale in Miles